Senators, congressmen set to feast on 'pork'

STORY ON PAGE A2

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PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2001 ★ 48 PAGES 4 SECTIONS VOL.16 NO. 317 P15

1,433 out of 7,871 pass CPA exams

A TOTAL of 1,433 out of 7,871 examinees passed the Certified Public Accountant licensure examination given by the Board of Accountancy this month, the Professional Regulation Commission (PRC) announced last night. ***(See complete list at Inq7 website)***

The examinations were held in the cities of Manila, Baguio, Cagayan de Oro, Cebu, Davao,

1,433 OUT/ A14

WHAT'S INSIDE

- **GMA, Jiang ink convict swap deal** NEWS / A2
- **World puts up defenses vs bioterror** WORLD/ A11
- **Diamondbacks to World Series** SPORTS / A16

US jets pound Taliban frontlines

BAGRAM, Afghanistan—US jets on Monday pounded Taliban positions near frontlines outside the Afghan capital and a key northern city, the Taliban said.

The attacks appeared aimed at helping Afghan opposition forces advance on major cities.

In Islamabad, Pakistan, Taliban Ambassador Abdul Salam Zaeef claimed US and British jets attacked a hospital in the western city of Herat, killing more than 100 people. The report could not be independently confirmed.

Zaeef also repeated Taliban claims—denied by the Pentagon—that Afghan fighters had shot down a US helicopter in southwestern Afghanistan.

Despite the bombing, it was unclear, however, whether the poorly armed and poorly trained opposition forces would be able to make significant gains against either Kabul or the northern city of Mazar-e-Sharif—something they have been unable to accomplish since the air campaign began Oct 7.

A Northern Alliance intelligence officer, Motavar, complained that the attacks were not over a wide enough area.

"We are satisfied but we would like a broader bombardment over a larger area," said Motavar, who like many Afghans uses only one name.

As the bombing campaign went into its third week, the Taliban's supreme leader, Mullah Mohammad Omar, issued a statement expressing condolences to those who had lost loved ones in the bombardment.

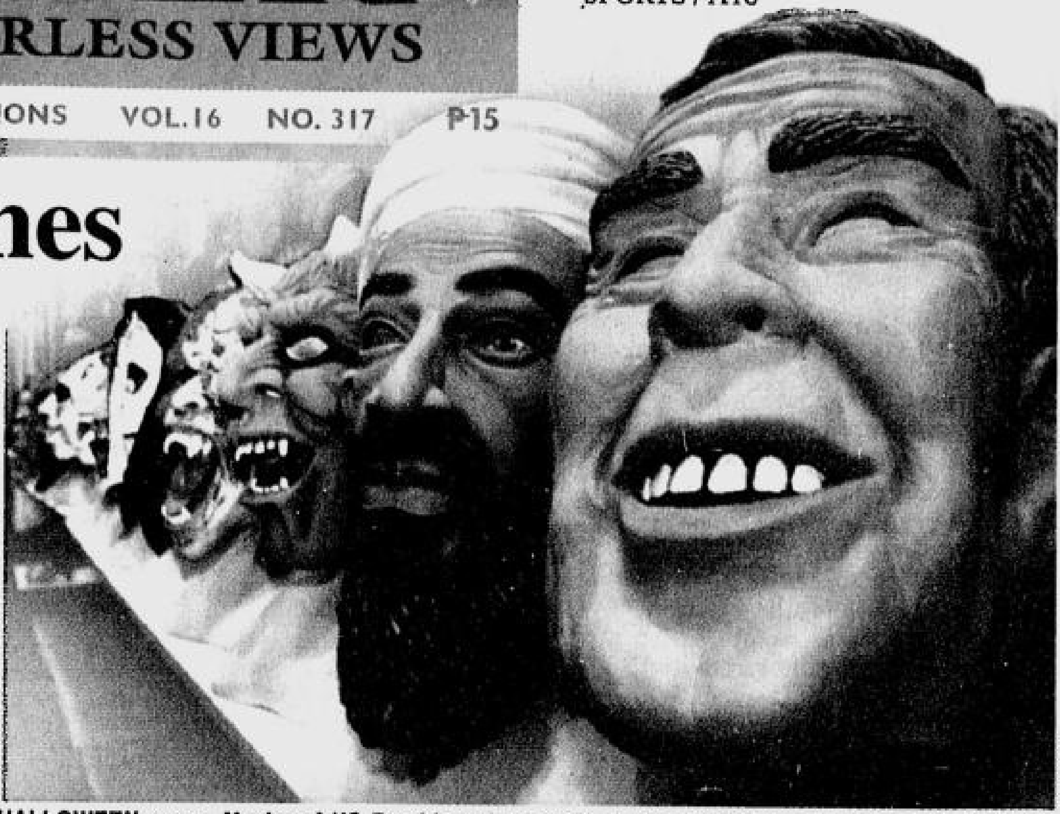
"We are not afraid of death because martyrdom is a great gift of God," Omar said in a statement distributed in Kabul.

"And every Muslim aspires to gain the status of martyr. Every man has to die one day, but we pray that we should die a martyr."

The bombardments near frontlines suggested the start of a more aggressive American campaign on behalf of opposition forces facing the fundamentalist Taliban regime.

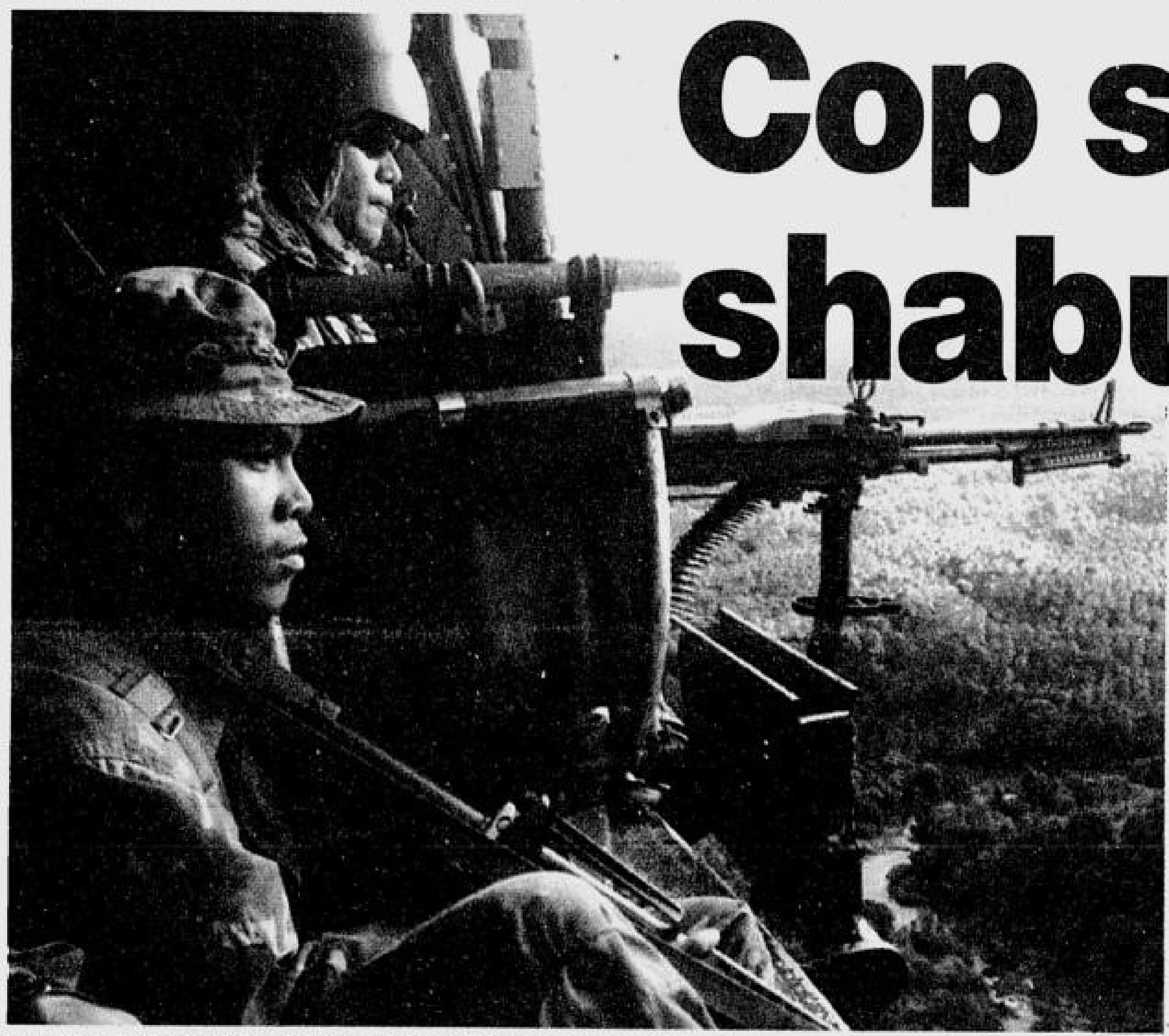
"This is very important for us because they are helping us finish off ter-

US/ A14



REUTERS

HALLOWEEN gear: Masks of US President George W. Bush and Osama bin Laden are featured prominently in a toys' exhibit in Hong Kong. The masks sell for US$9.90 each.



FILIPINO soldiers aboard a military helicopter provide air cover for colleagues on the ground giving chase to the Abu Sayyaf bandits in the wilds of Basilan.

REUTERS

Cop says he sold shabu for Campos

SPO2 Rosale confirms Mary Ong's testimony

BY CYNTHIA D. BALANA

A POLICEMAN yesterday testified before a Senate committee hearing that he sold shabu (methamphetamine hydrocloride) inside and outside Camp Crame, the police headquarters, on orders of Supt. John Campos who was then with the Narcotics Group.

SPO2 Mabini Rosale confirmed earlier testimonies of former narcotics agent Mary "Rosebud" Ong and Remus Garganera, an admitted "bagman" of Campos, that Narcgroup officials sold illegal drugs that they had seized from drug traffickers.

At the Senate committee hearing on the alleged involvement of Sen. Panfilo Lacson in the illegal drug trade, Rosale also confirmed that he was the "police officer 1" described by Ong in her previous statements on the so-called Campos drug pipeline at the Philippine National Police (PNP).

Sen. Robert Z. Barbers, chair of the committee on public order and illegal drugs, yesterday terminated the public hearing on Lacson's alleged involvement in drug trafficking. He said the next hearing would focus on Lacson's alleged involvement in money laundering.

Asked why he obeyed Campos' order to sell shabu, Rosale said that at first he thought that it was part of a legitimate operation to make it appear to the Hong Kong triad that Campos and Ong were indeed drug traffickers.

For six months, Rosale said he sold shabu to buyers in and out of Camp Crame. He sold a kilo of shabu for P525,000.

Rosale, now a criminal investigation officer assigned in Baguio City, said he gave all the proceeds from the sale to Campos and Supt. Francisco Villaroman.

The policeman said Campos approached him about the possibility of selling shabu after the latter and Ong had succeeded in penetrating the Hong Kong triad.

Rosale said he told Campos that he would first clear his participation with Villaroman but that Campos told him that Villaroman had already approved of it.

Garganera had earlier named Rosale as one of three police officers who recycled drugs in the

COP/ A14

Chinoy financed P1-B shabu deal–solon

BY ROCKY NAZARENO
AND MICHAEL LIM UBAC

A CHINESE-Filipino businessman financed the drug trafficking operations of a syndicate that allegedly included Panukulan Mayor Ronnie T. Mitra, who was arrested on Oct. 13 for transporting half a ton of methamphetamine hydrochloride (shabu) in Real, Quezon, Sen. Robert Z. Barbers yesterday said.

Mitra was suspended yesterday for six months by Ombudsman Aniano Desierto for grave misconduct and abuse of authority in connection with the seized shabu, which has an estimated street value of P1 billion.

Barbers said he had received reports that a "local Chinese businessman from Manila" was among those who financed the syndicate's illegal drug trade.

Barbers, chair of the Senate committee on public order and illegal drugs, refused to identify the businessman. He said he was "still checking with police sources about the veracity of the report and about the businessman's personal back-

CHINOY/ A14

Italian priest now under MILF custody, says military

BY MARTIN P. MARFIL
AND PDI MINDANAO BUREAU

A TOP military commander yesterday said Moro bandits had turned over kidnapped Italian missionary Giuseppe Pierantoni to the Moro Islamic Liberation Front.

Brig. Gen. Angel Atutubo, head of Task Force Giuseppe, said local officials had informed him that Pierantoni was now in the hands of Ustadz Ali Acas, commander of the MILF's 303rd Brigade based in Rajamuda, Sultan Gumander, Lanao del Sur.

MILF spokesperson Eid Kabalu, however, denied Atutubo's report that Acas was holding the 44-year-old priest from Bologna.

Bandits kidnapped Pierantoni on Oct. 19 after he celebrated Mass in Dimataling, Zamboanga del Sur.

"Mayors and other local officials have confirmed that the priest is now with the MILF," Atutubo said in a telephone interview with Camp Aguinaldo reporters.

"Our ground troops and intelligence agents are now checking the information that the priest is in Sultan Gumander," he added.

ITALIAN/ A14

Gloria hails Metrobank Shanghai

BY ARMAND N. NOCUM

SHANGHAI, China (via PLDT)—President Macapagal-Arroyo has lauded the entry of the Philippines' Metropolitan Bank and Trust Co. into China, saying the establishment of a Metrobank branch in this city would ensure that the giant nation's growth would "trickle down" to Filipinos.

"Leaders of more developed countries in Apec describe China as one island in a sea of poverty," she said of the nation whose growth has been hardly affected by the economic crisis that hit most of her neighbors.

Metrobank chair George S. K. Ty agreed, saying the bank had plans to expand its operations in China in due time.

GLORIA/ A15

GMA home but not for long

BY DONA Z. PAZZIBUGAN

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo arrived home earlier than expected from a three-day visit to Shanghai for the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit, although Malacañang said there was "no special reason" for the break in schedule.

The President had been due back 11:30 a.m. yesterday, but she arrived shortly after Sunday midnight. As dictated by protocol, Vice President Teofisto Guingona Jr., members of her Cabinet and military officials met her at the airport.

But she will not be home for long because the next four weeks will see her on state or official visits to China, Brunei, Indonesia, the United States and Mexico to firm up bilateral relations amid the terrorist threat and the global economic downturn.

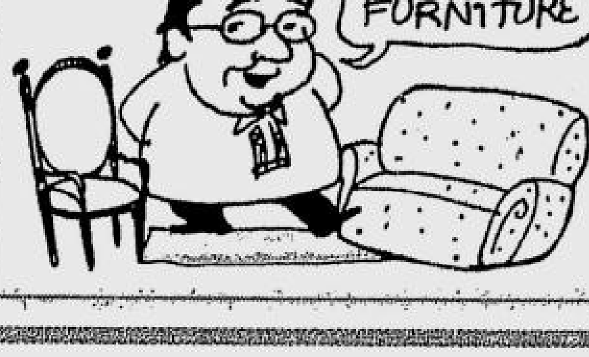
She starts on her blitz with her state visit to China, which is scheduled on Oct. 29-31.

"There's no special reason" for the President arriving sooner than expected, Press Secretary Noel Cabrera said.

He said Ms Macapagal was able to complete her meetings earlier than scheduled and thus decided to fly home despite the lateness of the hour.

The President had been expected to wrap up her meetings late Sunday night and to rest in her hotel before flying out early Monday.

GMA/ A14



Mike no Dennis Thatcher

BY CARLITO PABLO

NO Dennis Thatcher, he.

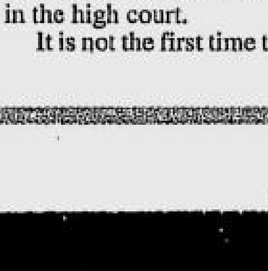
Philippine culture prevents President Macapagal-Arroyo's husband from being like "furniture inside the house," which is why he cannot be expected to follow the lead of former British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's spouse.

The President's spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao yesterday laid out this logic in defending the high visibility of First Gentleman Jose Miguel "Mike" Arroyo, whose name has been dragged into at least two controversies—those involving the telecommuni-

MIKE/ A15

Macapagal names Carpio to high court

BY CARLITO PABLO



CARPIO: He got 10 of 13 votes

THE LAW firm that Antonio T. Carpio founded has had to change its name yesterday after he was appointed justice of the Supreme Court by President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Carpio, the first appointee of President Macapagal to the high tribunal, replaces Justice Minerva Gonzaga-Reyes who retired last month.

At 52, Carpio, who wrote a column for the INQUIRER, becomes one of the youngest justices in the high court.

It is not the first time that the firm he founded

MACAPAGAL/ A15

GAMITIN YAN
SA TAMANG
PARAAN

Second FRONT PAGE

Solons' 'pork' ready for feast

BY JULIET LABOG-JAVELLANA

IT'S budget time again which means it's also pork barrel time.

The release of the pork barrel—only it's no longer called pork but the Priority Development Assistance Project (PDAP)—for 24 members of the Senate and 212 members of the House was made certain yesterday with the House set to approve the proposed P780.8-billion 2002 national budget by Wednesday or Thursday.

The 12th Congress goes on a two-week break on Friday.

A suddenly conscientious House leadership, faced with the perennial lack of a quorum, threatened "absentee" representatives with arrest or a slash of their pork at yesterday's budget deliberations.

Budget Secretary Emilia Boncodin said all senators and representatives would get the Special Allotment Release Order (Saro) before the week is out for projects to be funded under the current PDAP.

But Boncodin said the release of the pork barrel Saro was not a reward for passing the budget.

"Whether they pass (the budget) or not, that will be released because that is part of their regular budget," she said.

Boncodin said each senator was entitled to identify P100 million worth of projects, subject to budget department guidelines.

Members of the House, including the party list representatives, are entitled to P50 million, P25 million of which was already released last March.

Boncodin said the Saro for the second tranche of P25 million per congressman and the P100 million for each senator would be released within the week.

"Yes, in fact I signed some of them (Saro) last week but we don't want to give them unless we have all the Saros because we might be accused of playing favorites," Boncodin told reporters.

The fund releases would amount to P7.7 billion.

Boncodin said she had signed about half of the Saros for projects endorsed by the senators and representatives.

Boncodin said that because this was an "unusual year when there were two Congresses," some senators will receive a total of P200 million each.

Eleven senators whose terms overlapped the previous and present Congress, and five reelectionist senators benefited from the P200 million allocation.

But she said the senatorial pork next year would still be P100 million per senator and P50 million per congressman.

That would amount to P13 billion worth of pork-barrel projects.

Boncodin said the budget department had issued a memorandum—circular stating what projects would be accepted for PDAP funding. It has disallowed dubious projects such as basketball courts and waiting sheds.

Legislators have so far complied with the regulations, she said.

"Yes, I'm very happy that they went for infrastructure projects like roads, bridges, hospitals and day care centers," she said.

She said some "soft projects" like support for the Department of Social Welfare and Development and procurement of seeds were also allowed.

Advisers or partners: What's in a name?

BY MARTIN P. MARFIL

POLOMOLOK, South Cotabato—The arrival of a United States anti-terrorism team continues to confound Philippine officialdom. Depending on which official you talk to, they are either "experts," "advisers" or "specialists."

Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes yesterday seemed piqued at press reports referring to the 26 visiting US military officers as "experts" or "advisers."

Reyes said the US officials should be regarded as "equal partners" of the Philippine military in the global fight against terrorism.

Earlier reports have referred to members of the team, which arrived last Friday, as "advisers" or "experts" who are here to train Filipinos in the fight against the Abu Sayyaf kidnap group which is holding hostage the US missionary couple, Martin and Grace Burnham, in Basilan.

"We do not say that they are advising us or they are experts. We are all experts in our own right. They teach us something, we teach them something. They help us, we help them," Reyes said during a visit here last Sunday.

"The United States needs help in its fight against terrorism... they need the help of the international community and we also need the help of the US to fight international terrorism," he added.

But Armed Forces spokesperson Gen. Edilberto Adan has a different view, saying the members of the visiting US team were "specialists" who are here to assess the capabilities of Filipino soldiers in the fight against terrorism.

"They are here to assess our capabilities, our equipment, our doctrines with a view to make a recommendation on how to further improve our capabilities, particularly against the Abu Sayyaf," Adan said in an interview over ANC television yesterday.

"They are specialists in various disciplines—operations, psychological operations, intelligence and logistics," Adan said.

In Zamboanga City, Southern Command chief Lt. Gen. Roy Cimatu said preparations were being made for the arrival of "22 US experts" who will be helping the government map out strategies against the Abu Sayyaf.

He did not say what the nature of the preparations were but said the US team would be visiting Basilan for only half a day for security reasons.

"They will not be staying overnight because we might be inviting disaster," Cimatu said.

Reyes said the team would be holding discussions with their Filipino counterparts to come up with an anti-terrorism plan. *With a report from Julie Alipala-Inot, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Gloria's mail screened for anthrax

A SPECIAL team has been created to screen all mail addressed to President Macapagal-Arroyo and other top government officials amid a worldwide anthrax scare, the Philippine Postal Service said yesterday.

The five-member team will "scrutinize, analyze and detect" letters suspected of containing the deadly bacteria, which has infected nine people in the United States, central mail exchanger center chief Lovejoy Matias said.

"These people have been briefed on how to deal with this anthrax. We will be checking them (letters) so as to be sure of the letters that Malacañang would be receiving," Matias said.

"Though we can say that the chances of anthrax here is very remote, we won't take any chances."

Matias said that apart from the central exchange there were about 175 other private mail carriers which have already put in place precautions in handling mail.

"Though we can say that the chances of anthrax (through mail) here is very remote, we won't take any chance," he added.

Postal officials would also look into reports that the office of Speaker Jose de Venecia had received suspect mail from an unknown sender in the United States.

The President last week told the public to take precautions against anthrax contamination even as she downplayed fears of the bacteria infecting Filipinos.

Noting that anthrax was endemic to the Philippines, usually among farm animals, Ms Macapagal said Filipinos should not be "unduly alarmed." But she advised them to contact authorities anyway if powdery substances are found inside mail.

She said anthrax could be easily treated with antibiotics readily available in drugstores.

The anthrax scare has also hit the House when a "suspicious" letter addressed to all congressmen and the Senate was received at the office of De Venecia last Friday.

The envelope which was post-marked Oakland, California, was sealed without being opened and sent to the Department of Health to determine whether it contains the dreaded anthrax or any toxic substance.

But Noel Albano, deputy secretary general for public relations later said initial findings of the national Epidemiology Center said that the letter tested negative for anthrax.

Albano and Artemio Adasa, deputy secretary general for political affairs, stressed that there was "no outbreak of anthrax" in the chamber.

Albano explained that Carlos Baluyot, who sorts the mail for the Speaker, deemed the letter suspicious because it was "very thin, apparently with nothing inside" and had no return address.

"The letter was received at the Speaker's office Friday morning postmarked Oakland, California, with no return address and addressed to 'all members of the House of Representatives and the Senate through the Speaker of the House, Republic of the Philippines'," Albano said in a news briefing.

"It was indeed a suspicious letter because there was no return address," Adasa said.

AFP with a report from Juliet L. Javellana

GMA, Jiang sign pact on convict swap

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo and Chinese President Jiang Zemin have reached an agreement to allow Filipino and Chinese convicts to serve their prison sentences in their respective countries.

The agreement was forged by the two leaders during bilateral meetings in the sidelines of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit that ended in Shanghai on Sunday.

Ms Macapagal and Jiang will sign the agreement during her three-day state visit to Beijing beginning Oct. 29. No other details of the agreement were given.

Ms Macapagal said the agreement would help the Asian neighbors fight crime, citing the involvement of some Chinese nationals in kidnappings in the Philippines.

Philippine authorities have also become increasingly concerned about the entry into the country of illegal drugs from China and the involvement of Chinese nationals in trafficking.

Filipino policemen recently arrested a town mayor, a Chinese and two Filipino aides who were transporting about 500 kilos of methamphetamine hydrochloride (shabu) in Quezon province. AP

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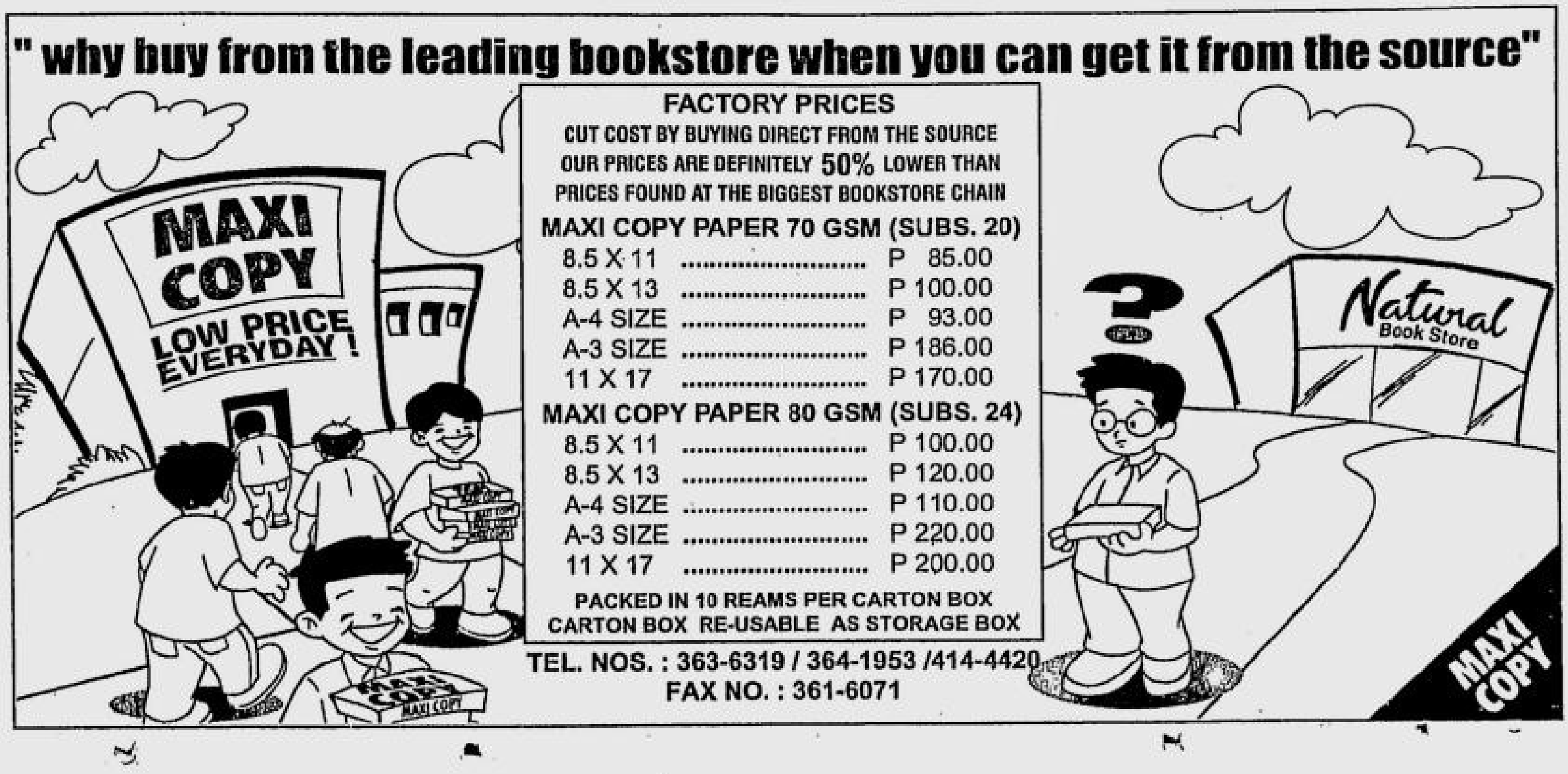

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2 Abu leaders captured

By Cathy C. Yamsuan

TWO leaders of the Abu Sayyaf were captured while a third surrendered to authorities along with nine followers in separate incidents in Basilan last week.

Each of the three leaders carried a P1-million bounty for his arrest, said Philippine National Police spokesperson Chief Supt. Crescencio Maralit.

A report from Zamboanga City said the first Abu Sayyaf leader, Hairus Muksan, alias Abdul John Muksan, 33, of Maluso, Basilan was arrested Saturday by intelligence operatives after a weeklong surveillance.

Authorities said they have two witnesses who would testify to Muksan's involvement in the kidnap-for-ransom activities of the terror group in Basilan.

Three days earlier, members of the PNP Special Action Force captured Binang Andan, 25, of Barangay Dikki, Isabela, Basilan.

Binang was wanted for four counts of kidnapping and serious illegal detention and faced an arrest warrant issued by the Isabela City Regional Trial Court.

Both Muksan and Binang will be flown to Zamboanga City for further interrogation, authorities said.

A Commander Mohammad Namuh and nine of his followers surrendered to Senior Insp. Abdurahman Hasim, Tuburan chief of police, also on Wednesday.

PNP director for intelligence Hercules Cataluna said Namuh's group turned in eight firearms. They are undergoing interrogation in Lamitan, Basilan, he said.

Cataluna said Namuh's group apparently decided to give up as "they were exhausted by the constant moving and prolonged exposure to mortal danger" since they were being hunted by the military.

After intense weekend battles that saw 18 Abu Sayyaf members and one government soldier killed, fighting between the military and the terrorist group died down on Monday, Reuters reported.

Lt. Gen. Roy Cimatu, Southern Command chief, said government troops had killed 18 Abu Sayyaf members in Jolo fighting on Sunday and mopping up operations were continuing Monday.

The military suffered one killed and 11 wounded, Cimatu told reporters.

On Basilan island, where the terrorists have been holding eight Filipinos and two Americans hostage for almost five months, there was intense fighting on Sunday and overnight, officers said.

Fighting died down on Monday, but Marines and special forces were tracking the guerrillas in the interior jungles, according to Col. Renato Miranda, a local commander.

He spoke to reporters in Maluso, a seaside town close to the scene of the latest fighting from where troop patrols were being sent out.

There was no word on casualties but Miranda said, "There were many Abu Sayyaf killed or wounded. We heard their radio messages trying to contact their colleagues." *With a Reuters report*

Sino fruits banned

THE GOVERNMENT yesterday banned imports of Chinese fruits until further notice to keep out the codling moth which feasts on many wild and cultivated plants, the agriculture department said.

Agriculture Secretary Leonardo Montemayor ordered customs and quarantine officials to confiscate all shipments of apple, pear, apricot, peach, plum, quince, cherry, almond, walnut, ornamental apple, and corn from China, a department statement said.

The shipments would be treated and returned to China at the expense of the importers, he added.

He said the quarantine service had found the pest in a shipment of Chinese apples on Oct. 4.

"The codling moth is one of the most noxious species," Montemayor said, adding it "feeds on living plant tissue, especially on foliage, or bores on twigs, flowers, buds, fruits and nuts of many wild and cultivated plants." *AFP*

Gloria can't recall commuted death sentences

By M. Ubac

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo cannot recall the commutations of sentence granted by her ousted predecessor to six death row convicts.

This was the contention of two top legal officials—Ombudsman Aniano Desierto and Justice Secretary Hernando Perez.

Desierto said yesterday that once a death sentence has been commuted by the President to a lesser penalty like life imprisonment, the commutation order "is final."

"It can't be reversed anymore," Desierto said, adding that an accused "is protected from any other prejudicial actions against him in connection with the same case."

Otherwise, he said, the recall would be tantamount to violation of the rule on estoppel, which "states that any action that benefits the accused can no longer be reversed."

"Recalling the commutation orders would go against the constitutional protection on the rights of an accused," he added.

Perez, in a separate interview, said that as a rule commuted sentences should not be cancelled.

"We will recommend to the President that there will be no cancellation," he said.

President Macapagal had announced she was ordering a study of the commutation of the death sentences on the six, who were convicted of kidnapping and kidnapping for ransom.

Former President Joseph Estrada commuted the death sentences in the last days of his administration in a perceived move to appease the Catholic Church, which was calling for his ouster.

Ms Macapagal's recent announcement drew flak from the Church and civil society groups who scored her change of heart from the beginning of her administration when she said she was holding all executions in abeyance.

The President's attempt to recall the commutations was seen this time around as an effort to appease the Chinese-Filipino community, which has suffered from an upsurge in kidnappings for ransom.

Perez and Desierto both agreed, however, that the commutations could be recalled by the President if it is shown their issuance violated certain procedures.

"Unless there was fraud and misrepresentation, (there should be no cancellation)," Perez said.

The Supreme Court had affirmed the convictions of at least eight kidnappers since capital punishment was re-imposed in the country on Dec. 31, 1993.

Aside from the eight, the high court affirmed the execution of seven death row convicts who were executed during the Estrada administration.

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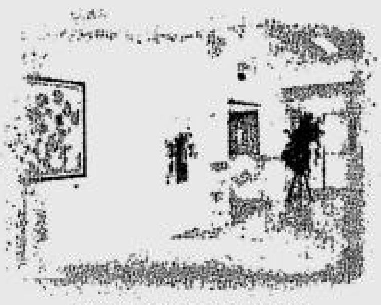
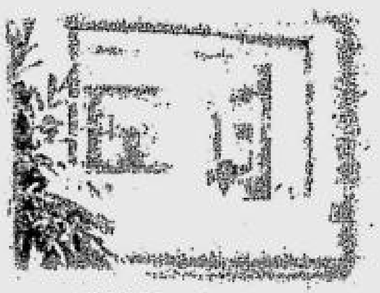
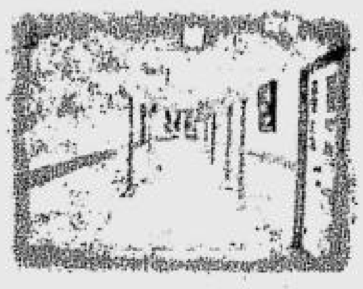
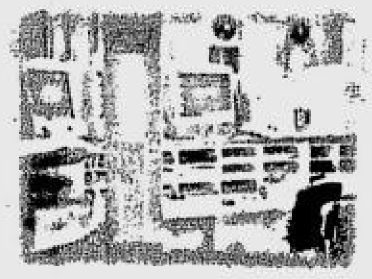
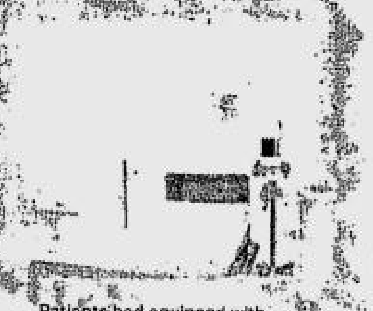
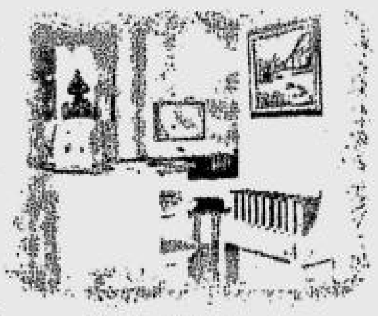

Hallway leading to the OR/DR

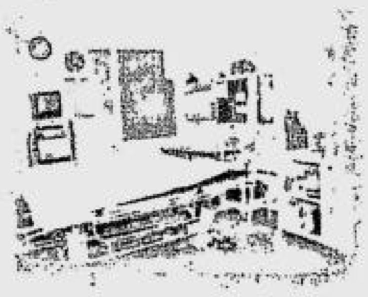

OR/DR Reception Area


ICU, Cardiac Station, Gastro-enterology Section and CSSR.

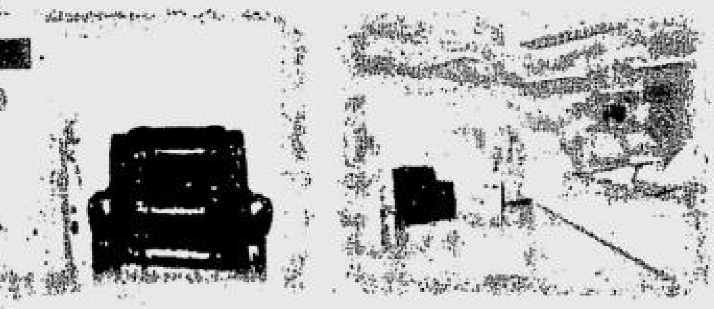

ICU Wireless Central Monitor System (Colin) - the first in the Philippines.


Patients bed equipped with wireless monitor

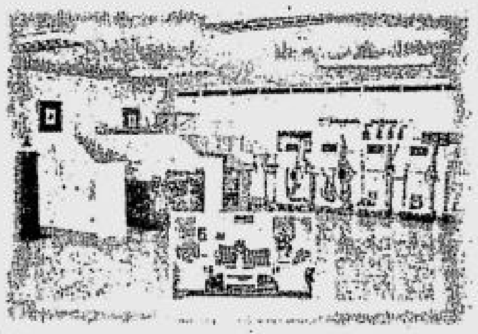

ICU Nurse's Station and Patients Records


The Gastro-enterology Section is equipped with Olympus Evis Exera GIF/CF/PCF 160 series with Videoscope, a top of the line endoscopy machine and the first series in the Philippines.

The cozy reception area of the Hemodialysis Section


The Hemodialysis Section equipped Althin Atratouch 1000 bicarbonate hemodialysis machine

Fluoroscopy Section


Pulmonary Section introduces a revolutionary innovation in strategic ventilator management made possible by Hamilton Medical - Galileo and the Hamilton Arabella - active nasal CPAP system for infants.

MESSAGES

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TANGGAPAN NG PUNONG LUNGSOD
(OFFICE OF THE CITY MAYOR)

It is with distinct honor that I congratulate the management and staff of the UNITED DOCTORS MEDICAL CENTER as they celebrate today the inauguration and opening of UDMC's various sections and by acquiring new facilities for the Pulmonary, Hemodialysis, Endoscopy, Cardiac Section, and ICU &Fluoroscopy for Radiologic Imaging and Sciences.

Being one of the premiere hospital in Quezon City, I am pleased to commend UDMC for its relentless effort in providing our constituents with quality health care service. UDMC's acquisition of state-of-the-art facilities gives strong emphasis on its earnest desire to be at par with the best medical institutions in the country.

Taking this significant step in providing only the best medical services to our fellow Filipinos is a highly notable deed. May your efforts pave the way to a more efficient delivery of medical service in our country.

Mabuhay kayong lahat!

FELICIANO BELMONTE, JR.
City Mayor

It is with much pleasure and honor that I extend my warmest greetings and congratulations to the men and women of our institution in the inauguration of our newly-renovated, highly technical, and state-of-the art Hemodialysis, Pulmonary, Gastro-enterology, and ICU sections.

With vision of providing socialized pricing in catering this medical care. Let me commend all of us for this meritorious accomplishments - the contributions we make for the advancement of quality medical services, our continued commitment to the public medical needs, sincerity and competence, and dedicated performance. Over the years, our Hospital has left its indelible mark providing adequate medical services, an achievement to which we can be proud of.

To ward this end, we take pride to boldly state that with our earned reputation, we will continue to build commitments in this endeavor with utmost circumspection of making it a shining track record.

Once again congratulations to all of us.

PETER P. LAUREL
Chairman of the Board

It is with warmest felicitations that I congratulate all of us in making the opening of our highly innovative Hemodialysis Section a reality. In the face of the country's continuing misfortunes, this is a day to count one's blessing. Being a pioneer in socialized pricing, its operation has originally caused our Hospital to earn great reputation. With the said innovation, its available resources are earmarked to provide better services to all.

With its opening, we take pride in announcing the adoption of highly sophisticated equipment as its showcase its new facilities are, to put it simply, a dream come true. This is a product of xtensive phase of conception to realization.]

As we move forward, share my sentiment that our fig to liberate our people from various ailments will continue even as we face challenges. We must aimed to be steadfast in our resolve and continue to innovate as we wish to succeed.

CONGRATULATIONS..............

DELFINA TAN, M.D.
President

GOD... is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to His power that is at works within us.

It is with great honor and privilege that I offer back to the public our Hemodialysis, Pulmonary, Endoscopy, ICU and Cardiac Services with its newly renovated facilities and top-of-the-line machines. With the advent of its operation, we humbly take pride in maintaining our adherence to the advancement of medical care. This is made possible as we introduce our highly innovative medical equipment at a socialized price and with the ultimate purpose of catering to the medical needs of all people from all walks of life.

Undoubtedly, with the success that we have so far achieved and the progressive plans we envisions for the future, there is no doubt that the next years will continue to be golden and that UDMC is boldly and undauntedly facing the new challenges is undeniable.

With this momentous occasion bear my exalted greetings in its inauguration.

EDITA F. ENATSU
General Manager & Treasurer

United Doctors Medical Center has acquired the latest in Ventilator Management. The GALILEO, a premiere ventilation instrument designed by experts from Hamilton Medical. Galileo is a combination of high performance and easy operation. Its ergonomic instrument design is the result of worldwide studies in instinctive operation.

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Another machine in which UDMC has recently acquired is the ARABELLA Monitoring Gas Mixer. This device is intended to treat patients with respiratory complications. The system provides safe and effective delivery of NCPAP to infants, including those with very low birth weight (VLBW). The advantages of the system include no moving parts, small size, minimum deadspace, quiet operation, and decreased impedance to respiration. The Monitoring Gas Mixer is used with a Patented Universal Generator Set with interchangeable silicone Soft Prongs, a heated wire Delivery Circuit, and an ARABELLA cap.

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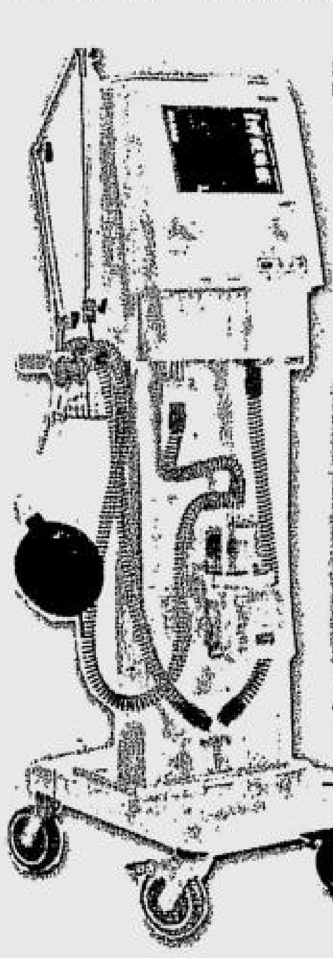
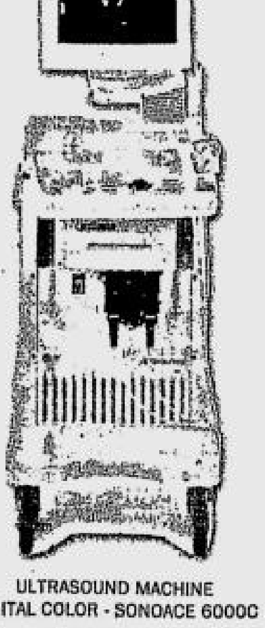

GALILEO

ARABELLA Monitoring Gas Mixer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Mayor - Quezon City

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'No compromise with thieves'

By Donna S. Cueto

FORMER solicitor general Francisco Chavez yesterday cautioned the Philippine government against entering into a compromise deal with the Marcoses, saying that there should be "no compromise with thieves."

Chavez said that the government could not just enter into a compromise deal with the Marcoses, saying that the various criminal cases pending against the Marcoses could not be part of that deal.

"There should be no dismissal of criminal cases. You don't compromise with thieves," he said.

At most, any compromise that the government could enter with the Marcoses is just to give them an "opportunity to come clean."

Only civil cases 1 to 40 pending at the Sandiganbayan, regarding the reconveyance of certain properties and assets, could be the subject of the compromise deal.

But this should only cover the Marcoses, and not their cronies, Chavez said.

'Rush' to trial linked to 2004

By Volt Contreras

WITH THE TRIAL of jailed ex-President Joseph Estrada going on a prolonged break, the off-court propaganda war between the disgraced leader's lawyers and state prosecutors has resumed.

Defense lawyer Raymund Fortun fired the latest shot yesterday, claiming that some parties wanted to "rush" the trial in time for the 2004 senatorial elections as they expect the trial to boost their popularity.

Unfortunately for these senator-wannabes, Fortun said, the Estrada trial would have "no deadline."

"Some people are already going around saying that their popularity as a result of the Estrada cases will ensure their victory in the senatorial elections in 2004," Fortun told reporters at the Sandiganbayan yesterday.

"This is why our cases are being rushed," he said.

Fortun declined to say who these senatorial aspirants were or whether they were from the ranks of state prosecutors, civil society, or the judiciary.

He said the trial was nothing like the earlier impeachment proceedings against Estrada in which the senator-judges had a self-imposed deadline for coming up with a decision.

"A trial is not a sprint but a marathon. The key here is endurance. This case should go on in its normal course, even if it goes beyond 2004," he said.

Fortun made the remarks in response to criticism that Estrada's defense lawyers have been resorting to delaying tactics.

The latest of these tactics was their non-appearance on Day One of Estrada's plunder trial on Oct. 1. All of Estrada's nine lawyers claimed to have other court appointments at the time.

The defense panel would later file a motion questioning the 3rd Division's decision to proceed with the trial despite Estrada's lack of proper counsel, asking that the Oct. 1 hearing be nullified.

The court has since canceled five hearing dates because of that still unresolved motion.

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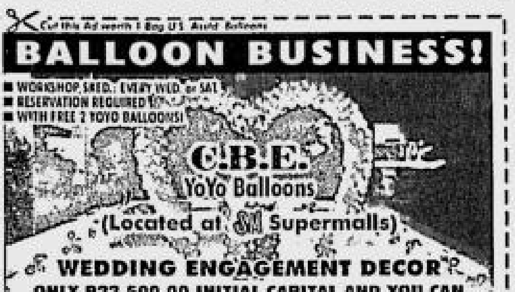

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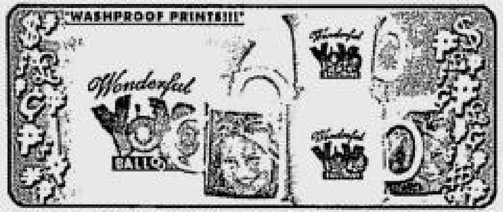

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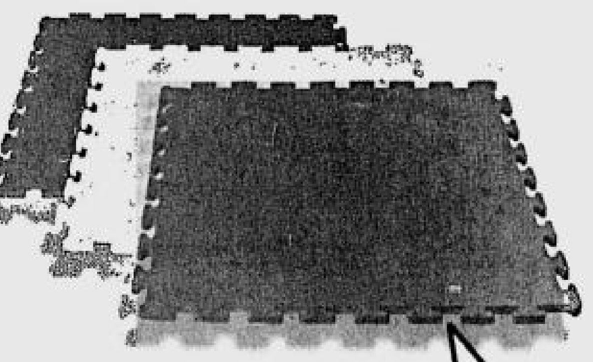

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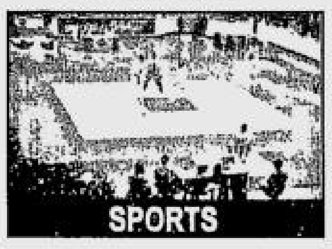

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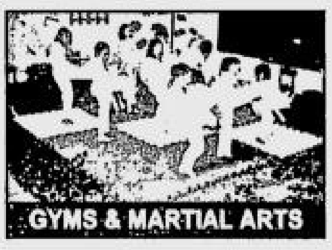

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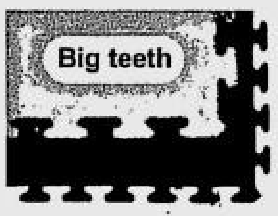

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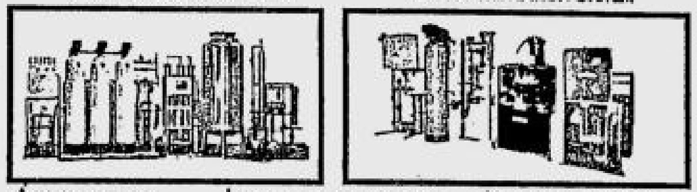

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OPINION

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Garbage everywhere

EDITORIAL

FORGET about anthrax. Forget about bioterrorism. We are not going to die from those things. The people of Metro Manila are facing much more lethal, much more immediate threats to their lives and wellbeing. These threats come in the form of mountains of garbage that dot almost every other block of the metropolis. They have remained uncollected for what—two, three weeks, a month?—and pose a very real threat to the health of the people.

You can get infected with the bacteria and viruses that cause gastroenteritis, cholera, typhoid fever, amoebiasis and hepatitis. When a flood occurs you run the risk of being infected with leptospirosis if you wade through the inundated streets. The mounds of garbage pollute the land and the atmosphere and make the landscape of the metropolis very unsightly.

What have we gotten so far from the Metro Manila authorities? A lot of words, a lot of promises and no action on the growing, mounting problem. Six months after the garbage law was passed, Metro Manila is in danger of being covered all over with garbage. Is this a metaphor for the state of our society and government today?

What can be done about the 6,000 tons of garbage being generated every day in the metropolis? Chair Benjamin Abalos Sr. correctly identified the problem when he said that the absence of a permanent dump was the main reason for the mountains of garbage in Metro Manila and nearby provinces. After the Smokey Mountain and the Payatas dumps were "decommissioned," the Metro Manila authorities should have prepared a solution to the garbage problem.

Now we have Secretary Victoria "Vicky" Garchitorena, chief of the Presidential Management Staff, saying that three agreements have been reached to solve the garbage problem by Christmas. These are: (1) to immediately ship the garbage to Bataan, (2) to use a dumpsite in Rodriguez (formerly Montalban) town in Rizal and (3) to dredge Tullahan River in Malabon to rid it of garbage and silt that cause floods.

But the shipping of garbage to Bataan is encountering opposition. Rep. Enrique Garcia of Bataan said the garbage could be shipped to Bataan only "over our dead bodies." Rep. Antonio Roman said he could not imagine his province being converted into another Smokey Mountain. And Jonathan de los Reyes of the Mariveles Laban sa Basura ng Kamaynilaan said they would not allow this imposition on the people of Bataan by the national government. So where is the Metro Manila garbage going to be shipped or dumped?

The problem has reached such awesome proportions that the Metro Manila Development Authority declared last week "a state of emergency" in all the Metro cities and towns to avert a garbage crisis. "Avert" a garbage crisis? We're already in the midst of a crisis and they're talking about "averting" that crisis. Abalos said the state of emergency would allow mayors to use their calamity fund and give them authority to solve the garbage problem.

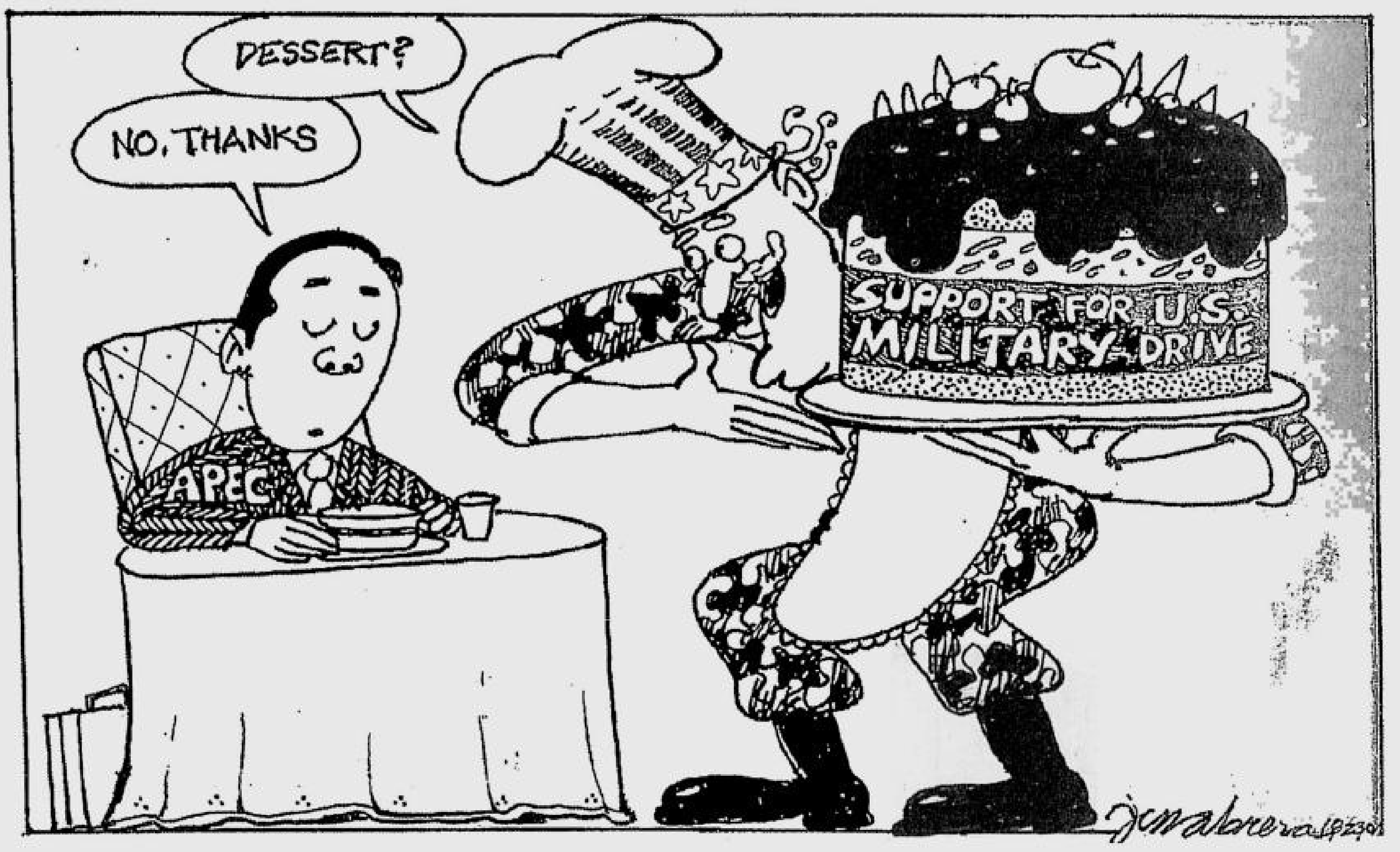
We hope the mayors can come up with bright, practical and feasible ideas that can be immediately adopted and action plans that can be immediately carried out. Let's have action and less talk.

Perhaps we can take a clue to both a short-term solution and a long-term one from the composition of the municipal garbage. There is an estimate that more than 90 percent of the 6,000 tons of garbage generated daily in the metropolis consists of biodegradable matter. In simpler terms, this is garbage that decays (*basurang nabubulok*). This is material that can be made into compost. Much of the balance of 10 percent could be recycled and even resold.

Mayors, barangay leaders and heads of subdivision and neighborhood associations could take the lead in segregating the garbage in their areas and in recycling and composting. Only the remaining wastes would be gathered for disposal at the dump. And the dump should be designated as soon as possible before an epidemic of a deadly disease hits the metropolis.

Eventually the composting projects, when big enough, could be made into money-making ventures, bioreactors that produce not only organic fertilizer but also energy from the methane gas that will be generated. As for the other materials, Leonarda Camacho, writer-environmentalist, said that these could be turned into neutral substances that can be made into things like hollow blocks and paint.

Civic action is called for to solve this life-threatening problem. But the government should also stop delaying the adoption of a permanent solution to the perennial and recurring garbage problem.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'Honor' and 'honorable' have lost their meanings

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

HONOR: high regard or great respect given, received, or enjoyed; good reputation; a keen sense of right and wrong; adherence to action and principles considered right; integrity; to conduct oneself with honor…

Honorable: worthy of being honored; noble; illustrious; of good reputation; respectable; having or showing a sense of right and wrong; characterized by honesty and integrity; upright; bringing honor to the owner or doer…

Do these definitions of the words "honor" and "honorable" apply to our senators, representatives, Cabinet members and other government officials—and especially to officials of the Government Service Insurance System and the Social Security System?

No, according to Sen. Aquilino Pimentel Jr. He has asked his fellow legislators to stop using "honorable" whenever they address each other during plenary sessions and public hearings.

He said that although its use has been part of legislative tradition, he finds it awkward and unnecessary since members of Congress are "understood (correction: "supposed"—NHC) to be men of honor and respect."

"This practice is nothing but an exercise in self-flattery," he said. "That does not enhance the quality of debates or deliberations in the halls of Congress."

I agree wholeheartedly. Indeed, the two words have lost their meanings because of repeated use not only on members of Congress, but also on judges and other public officials.

During the impeachment trial of President Estrada, I found it very irritating that the lawyers and witnesses prefixed every sentence with "Your Honor" when it was obvious that those they were addressing didn't deserve it.

As part of courtroom tradition, judges are also addressed as "Your Honor," but do they all deserve it? We know that some of them are a disgrace to the judicial system, but they are still addressed as "Your Honor."

Cabinet members and other executive officials also like to put the word "honorable" before their names as in "The Honorable so-and-so" when most of what they do are dishonorable. When GSIS officials gave themselves fat retirement benefits, do they deserve the word "honorable"? When SSS officials gave themselves fat salaries and allowances and spent millions of pesos of members' money on lavish parties, do they deserve to be called "honorable"?

In short, we are twisting the meaning of the word "honorable" to mean its opposite. We are confusing our children as to the meaning of the word. It won't be long before they would be arguing with their English teacher over it. In time, like the names "Quisling" and "Benedict Arnold" which became synonymous with "traitor," the word "honorable" would mean the opposite when applied to our public officials.

I agree with Pimentel. Let's stop using that word.

* * *

Another worthy proposal of Senator Pimentel is the ban on low-number vehicle plates for high-ranking government officials, except the president of the Philippines. He has filed Senate Bill 837 to this effect.

Pimentel said certain public officials have the twisted notion that the low-numbered plates give them a license to break traffic rules.

"Many high-ranking government officials and middle-level bureaucrats today roam our streets like members of royalty in heavily tinted vehicles sporting low-numbered car plates. They evoke a false impression that these favored few are exempt and insulated from the reach of traffic rules and regulations," he said. "Since they are public servants, they should be at the forefront in observing road regulations that are to be followed by all. They should lead by example."

Indeed, low-number plates is a form of status symbol and has no place in our society. Those who like them have "delusions of grandeur." But there is no legitimate reason for government officials to be accorded this kind of privilege, Pimentel said.

Well said. I am sure the people agree with him.

* * *

While you're at it, Senator Pimentel, why not also ban the use of opaque and heavily tinted windows on vehicles. Criminals and terrorists can easily hide behind them. Osama bin Laden and Abu Sabbaya can roam all over the Philippines undetected in those heavily tinted vehicles. With the current war against terrorism, now is the best time to prohibit it.

Another common practice that should be prohibited, Mr. Senator, is the stopping of all traffic in streets where a convoy of VIPs is going to pass. Often, traffic is stopped while the convoy is still 10 miles away. Motorists stew in the heat in the stalled traffic for half an hour or more while the police wait for the convoy to pass. Isn't this another example of special privilege to government officials who don't deserve it? Doesn't that make them like members of royalty?

If road regulations are to be followed by all, why are they exempted? They are the servants of the people, not their masters. Why are the servants disobeying rules that their masters are obeying?

How will our public officials exert any effort to improve traffic flow when they never experience being held up by traffic? As they speed effortlessly and smoothly through the streets, they think everything is just honky-dory. There is no traffic problem in their minds. That is why our traffic keeps getting worse.

High-ranking public officials should also experience what we ordinary mortals suffer every day in the streets. Maybe that will force them to do something about it.

Love and hate

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

LARRY King had Dan Rather as guest last Friday, and at one point asked him a poignant question: As someone who had been around the world, how would Rather explain the fact that many people hated America?

Rather disagreed with the premise, saying it wasn't true that many people hated America. In fact, he said, the opposite was true. Most people admired America. Wherever he went, he felt a deep reservoir of goodwill for America and Americans. Most people around the world admired the American way of life and America's commitment to freedom and civil liberties. Proof of that, he said, was that a lot of people everywhere wanted desperately to immigrate to America.

But it was true, Rather said, that there were pockets of hatred for America around the globe. One explanation for this was that they were losers and America was a winner. It was natural for losers to envy winners and to wish them ill. The other explanation was that evil did exist in the world. Some people were evil and could not abide good.

Well, true enough, things will never be the same after the Sept. 11 attack on New York. Clearly, it has taken its toll not just on the world's way of life but on the world's way of thinking. That a well-known journalist should be reduced to passing off silly platitudes as profound truths must tell us of the depths to which we are fast sinking. As platitudes go, it is of the same order of breathtaking vapidity as George Bush's statement last week that he was "amazed" by the hatred the Islamic world harbored for America because "like most Americans, I know how good we are." For someone who has scoured the world, Rather clearly has little learned from it.

He is right to correct King's premise. Most people in the world do not hate America or Americans. Most people in the world admire America and Americans. America's dedication to freedom and democracy is real. I've always said that the real test of democracy was not a tolerant government but a people who will not tolerate tyranny, and as that goes, America is truly the freest and most democratic country in the world. It has an articulate, vocal and assertive people, a people who will protest the slightest infringement on their freedom. Who, particularly among those who live under the blackest oppression, wouldn't want to live in a country like that?

But Rather is wrong to think that the people who resent or even hate America are the rest of the world's population who do not belong to America's admirers. Some are, the groups who resent or hate America out of religion, culture or presumed hurts, real or imagined. But not all of them belong to this group. Many, probably most, belong to the very camp that admires America. Those two camps—those who admire America and those who hate America—are not mutually exclusive. The sooner Americans recognize this, the sooner they will find the answer to the question they have been asking poignantly of late: "Why do they hate us?"

The critical word is "us." For most of America's detractors do not hate Americans, they hate the American government. Most of America's detractors do not hate America's policies toward its citizens, they hate America's policies toward other peoples. Most of America's detractors do not hate America's defense of its freedom and way of life, they hate America's denial of other people's pursuit of freedom or defense of their way of life.

It is simply not true as George Bush says that the people who hate America hate the American way of life. Some do: the murderous terrorists and the batty religious fundamentalists chief of them. Most others hate America *because* they love the American way of life. There is nothing paradoxical about that at all. Most others would like nothing better to have the American way of life—one where they are free to express themselves without fear of censors and religious fanatics, where they are free to pursue happiness without fear of social pressure or conscription—but are unable to because of corrupt, repressive and fanatical leaders that America supports or has even foisted on them.

That was how the Afghans inherited the Talibans. As several commentators have pointed out in BBC and CNN, the situation in Afghanistan is also the product of the American abandonment of that country. After arming the Talibans to help them oust their Soviet oppressors, it quite cynically left them to oppress their own people while pursuing its advantage elsewhere.

It is not that America is not capable of stoking or helping democratic campaigns around the world, as it has done in the eastern European bloc over the last decade. It is that it does so only largely when it coincides with its interests. It is not loath to support patently tyrannical regimes—as its record in the 1970s and 1980s abundantly shows—when its interests lie with them.

Lest we forget, it was the incumbent president's father, George Bush, former president of the United States, and former vice-president of Ronald Reagan, who toasted Ferdinand Marcos' staunch adherence to democracy. It was Reagan, the former president of the United States, now afflicted by a disease which has made him forget everything—an affliction he shares with America's current officials—who as late as 1986 still believed Marcos was part of the solution as much as the problem.

Most Filipinos then did not stop loving Americans. But they hated the American government. Most Filipinos then did not stop admiring Reagan's policies toward Americans, which gave them a decade of prosperity. But they hated his policies toward the world, which gave them rulers like Marcos and Pinochet and Idi Amin. Most Filipinos then did not stop believing in America's freedom and way of life. But they hated its denial of them for others.

"Why do they hate us?" America asks. That is a question many of the world's peoples have been asking for a very, very long time. Why does America hate **us**?

A clan's story

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

(FOLLOWING is the conclusion of Public Works Undersecretary Mabini "EQ" F. Pablo to his parents, lawyer Rizalino Pablo and the former Bituen Fonacier, who recently celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary. More than a son's loving tribute to his parents, the piece, which he titled "Lessons from Tatay and Nanay," is a story of the struggles of an entire clan.)

With the marriage of my brothers and sisters came, of course, something which thrilled Tatay and Nanay beyond belief, the prospect of grandchildren. Like a typical Filipino clan, our family grew exponentially over a 20-year period. By 1971 Tatay and Nanay could boast of four grandchildren; by 1976 there were six and five years later, the number had doubled to 12. We continued to increase until 1990 when the last grandchild, Lia, was born.

Grandparenting was, and still is, an obvious thrill for Tatay and Nanay. Nanay has the dubious distinction of having bathed all her grandchildren and of being the one who could put them all to sleep in the fastest possible time. Tatay, on the other hand, has been known to take drastic measures, such as literally kidnapping a grandchild, throwing the parents into complete and total panic. When they traveled abroad, they, came home loaded with Legos, wooden building blocks, Barbies and teenage magazines which probably left them scandalized. Both have been meticulous in attending kindergarten graduations, school plays, piano recitals and sportsfests of their *apos*.

By the time Tatay and Nanay celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary, their marriage had produced six children, embraced five in-laws and brought forth 15 grandchildren. Looking back, it is amazing to realize how the Lord can bring together two people, with their own frailties, and entrust them with the privilege of multiplying life and love in this world.

Moral of the story No. 5: Even the most human and fragile institutions, like families and marriages, when offered to the Lord, can be redeemed and used as vehicles for spreading His blessings.

On a different note, I do remember that when we were growing up, we thought that Tatay and Nanay were quite masochistic in terms of career choices. They chose noble professions like civil service and academe, careers where you work long and hard, where the psychic rewards were huge but the financial rewards were negligible. Tatay took on positions like director of the Bureau of Commerce and executive director of the National Economic Council, and up to now we hear stories about how he was one of the most honest and principled men in the civil service. If you don't believe me, ask him why he never had luxury cars and has lived in the same compound since 1951.

Tatay and Nanay never forced us to follow them in terms of career choices. But today the Pablo genes are beginning to emerge. Tatay and Nanay produced children and grandchildren who seem to gravitate toward government and academe, perpetuating the family tradition of going into low-paying positions of martyrdom. I am living proof. I've been in government service for the last 30 years. Lulu has gone into social welfare. Onyo has been involved with local government. Bubut and a couple of grand children are in the academe. Tatay and Nanay never came out and taught us about what the noble professions were, but somehow, from watching them faithfully fulfill their work, we knew, and we learned.

Moral of the story No.6: One of the greatest, yet scariest things about parenthood is what our kids learn from simply watching us, even when we don't know it.

Tatay and Nanay had wonderful careers but retired decades ago to enjoy their families and give more time to the church. In the last few years, they have been blessed by even more new arrivals: two great-grandchildren, Bianca and Casey. While this branch of the family's living in Australia is a bit sad for us. Tatay and Nanay and the rest of us are discovering that family is always family, inspite of what geography tries to do.

So, did Tatay and Nanay produce a perfect and ideal family? Definitely not. We have our own eccentricities: we're a family that talks long and loud; we argue a lot, and we're prone to high blood; we have had our share of troubles and heartaches. But we try, by God's grace and in His strength, to be instruments of His love to one another, and to the ones He brings our way.

A lot has happened over the last 60 years.

Tompay has now earned his right to go into semi-retirement with Cyn. All of his children have graduated from the UP and are now professionals. Three have completed graduate school. Three are married and Tompay and Cyn now have two beautiful grandchildren, Australians who call them "Lolodad" and "Lolamom." Lolodad recently left for Sydney to see his newest *apo* for the first time.

Lulu continues to hold her position as DSWD undersecretary and among the perks of her post is the privilege of being present at every volcanic eruption, flood and every other natural disaster imaginable. And of course the opportunity to be on TV.

Bubut has remained in her teaching career. The family grieved when her Lito passed away in 1999, and he continues to be a part of this family. They were blessed with two children, one having graduated from the UP recently and the other soon to follow.

Onyo has spent the last few years active in the local government of Zambales. It is his plan to continue the initiatives which he begun, strongly supported by Emmeline and his six children. His three sons have completed college, and his two daughters are working on their degrees.

I am a future ex-Public Works Secretary. I continue to get the blame for every pothole, fallen bridge, burnt building and clogged *estero* in the country. What remains of my sanity is there because of the presence of Clem, my son Joao, now completing his degree in the Ateneo, and my daughter Lia, who is in elementary school in Poveda, and who will be allowed to start dating when she turns 30.

Little Bi left for Japan in 1973 and decided to stay there pretty much forever, probably due to the charm and good looks of Moto. They are both very busy with their careers and we are blessed that they can come home more frequently now.

Meanwhile, Tatay and Nanay continue to date in Saisaki, watch telenovelas in the evenings, share the same glass at mealtime and even travel to wholesome places. Their honeymoon has definitely not ended.

Under the 'saya' and Mama's Boy

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

WHY is it that men think the biggest insult to other men is to say they love the women in their lives?

Remember Aprodicio Laquian, who was fired by former President Erap as his chief of staff for boasting that he was the only sober person in the room at the end of a long night's carousing in Malacañang? Estrada sneered that it was impossible for Laquian to have been present at the marathon drinking sessions. "From what I heard," he told Dong Puno in an "exclusive" interview aired on Channel 2, "that Laquian is under orders to be home by eight o'clock, he's a real under the *saya*."

"Under-the-*saya*" is a local derogatory term for a henpecked husband. Funny, but there's no equivalent vernacular term for the abused wife, such as "under the *pantalon*." Maybe because this is deemed the natural order of things?

Anyway, I bring up Laquian because Finance Secretary Isidro Camacho is now laboring under the "shadow" of another derogatory moniker: "Mama's Boy." This because one of the points raised by opposition Sen. Blas Ople at Camacho's confirmation hearing was a letter written by the secretary's mother in defense of her son to which the senator took offense.

It isn't clear for what reason Camacho has earned the "title" of Mama's Boy. Is it because he didn't repudiate his mother's letter to Ople? Or because his mother dared rush to his defense?

* * *

WHEN I first read the news report about the stormy confirmation hearing, I laughed because the letter sounded so much like Narda. An outspoken civic leader with a particular concern for environmental issues, Narda Camacho was a public figure in her own right long before her son entered public life. Did she lose her rights as a citizen and activist simply because her son joined the Cabinet?

I would think, given the value we purportedly place on family and parental ties, that Camacho would be lauded for refusing to sacrifice his mother for expediency. Why is he now the object of derision by other men?

What was Erap, in the case of Laquian, and the male commentators, in Camacho's case, saying about the relations between Filipino men and women? That the only proper role for a man vis-à-vis his wife is that of dominator? That to value one's marriage by coming home at a decent hour is to be under your wife's thumb?

And by dubbing Camacho "Mama's Boy," are they saying that adult sons who honor their mothers are namby-pamby wimps who haven't outgrown their diapers? If these men still have mothers, I hope they get a good whipping!

* * *

HERE'S a chance for grade school and high school computer buffs to hone their skills beyond "Counterstrike" and downloading the latest hits on MP3. With the launch of the Philippine Schools CyberFair Competition, the Philippines has the honor of joining a large community of at least 500,000 students from more than 1,500 schools in over 70 countries.

For the past six years, primary and secondary students the world over have been conducting research about their local communities, then publishing their stories on the Web. Prizes are awarded to schools for the best entries in each of eight categories: local leaders, businesses, community organizations, historical landmarks, environment, music, art and local specialties. This activity has been described as the largest educational event of its kind on the Internet: the International Schools CyberFair.

The interesting part about the competition is that it's one of content, not of design, and therefore the playing field is level. Primary school teams from far-flung barrios of the Third World have as good a chance at winning as high-school teams from the best schools in even the most developed countries of the world.

In brief, contestants are expected to do research on their local communities and build a website around their findings. With the emphasis on content and not design, students even from communities without full-time electricity can compete against children living in the most wired cities.

"It's not only prestige that's at stake," said Janette Toral, president of the Philippine Internet Commerce Society (PICS), one of the co-organizers of the event. "Philippine students can learn about the communities of students from other countries and, more importantly, about communities in their own country. At an even more fundamental level, the students can obtain a more in-depth knowledge of their own communities by talking with prominent local residents."

* * *

"WE'RE looking forward to the locally generated content," said Matthew Yngson, president of iskul.org, the other co-organizer. "One of the challenges that the local Internet industry faces is the need for increased international bandwidth. This is because much of the content is still outside the country, specifically in the United States. With the Philippine Schools CyberFair competition, we hope to generate local content that, together with other initiatives in the industry, will raise the level of local Web traffic."

The Philippine Internet Commerce Society (http://www.pics.org.ph) undertakes activities to enhance and facilitate on local, regional and national levels the advancement and development of Internet and electronic commerce. Iskul.Org (http://www.iskul.org) is the first public service organization in the Philippines to offer free Internet/Web services to students and student organizations. It will serve as the secretariat.

Another piece of good news is that INQ7.net is now a co-presentor, with the INQUIRER as the CyberFair media partner. In fact, the CyberFair environment category will be the Inquirer Environment Award. Major sponsors are Eastern Telecoms Philippines Inc, (ETPI) and dotPH Inc.

For more information on the International Schools CyberFair Competition, visit http://www.globalschoolhouse.org/cf/index.html. For more information on the Philippine Schools CyberFair Competition, visit http://www.cyberfair.ph, or iskul.org at Suite D, 10th Floor, Strata 2000 Bldg., Emerald Ave., Ortigas Center, Pasig City, Tel. No. (63-2) 687-2074 to 76, telefax (63-2) 687-2074.

The Island of Negros

SENSE AND SENSIBILITY

Bambi L. Harper

AN ACCOUNT written by R. Echauz published in 1894 is probably representative of the manner in which other towns were founded by the Spanish colonial government and the religious. Compared to other places, the island was a late comer. It was only in 1849 when the governor, Jose Saenz de Vizmanos, died that his successor, Manuel Valdivieso Morquecho, transferred the capital from Jimamaylan to Bacolod.

With the help of the Padres Recoletos, Morquecho founded several towns and the people were gathered under the bells in Toboso, Salamanca, Lemery, Escalante, Arguelles, Magallanes, Marianas, Cadiz Nuevo, Cadiz Viejo, Toreno, Murcia, Granada, Numancia, Jovellanos, Villadolid, Madrigal (later changed to San Enrique), Simancas (changed to La Carlota), Pontevedra, Miranda, Isabela, Campomanes, Tolon, Valencia and Zambuanguita.

In 1856, the Bishop Jimeno of Cebu authorized Fr. Fernando Cuenca to administer both the souls in it and the town of Minuluan in the south where he was able to convince 6,000 families of mountain people to live in designated places (what was known as *reduccion*). In the town of Sondol, he appointed Calalas, son of Cauntao, the chief of Kanglaon as lieutenant. Cauntao himself was baptized at the age of 60 and had as godfather the presbyter, D. Eusebio Locsin who convinced him to marry one of his many mistresses.

It is in accounts like that of Echauz where we still find names that obviously were not affected by Governor Claveria's edict. In Mampunay atop La Carlota, Casitoy was appointed governor; in Baylan Camaitis, in Tinongan and Calatcat, a certain Sarincoy and a certain Amaray. We are told that 60 of the latter's people were baptized after the parish priest of Jimamaylan, Fr. Agustin Olmedillas, instructed them.

The chief of the cordillera, Manyabog ,was named to the post of lieutenant in Carolan. Manyabog was a man with a reputation for bravery and he was respected not only among his people but even by other tribes. Two priests, Fathers Cuenca and Martinez, were eager to know and deal with him, and thus mounted their horses from Cabancalan, arriving in Carolan only to find the inhabitants fearful of an encounter.

Led by two guides to a delightful waterfall of some 30 *varas* in height and 20 in width amid boulders, shrubs, huge trees and climbing vines, the two priests found themselves surrounded by about a hundred of Manyabog's people armed with lances, krises, daggers and sabers. They proceeded to form a circle and nailed their lances to the ground in front of them. At the center was Manyabog who, much to the relief of the two missionaries, welcomed them. As a sign of fraternity, Manyabog even kissed Father Cuenca's ring.

It was also around the middle of the century that sugar began its ascendancy over other crops. In 1849 Montilla in Bago was producing 1,000 picos of sugar; Luzuriaga in Bacolod 700, Gaston in Silay 900; and someone called Tia Sipa in Minuluan 400—for a total of 3,000 picos.

Improvements were introduced in Hacienda Lupit in 1854. Don Jose Ruiz de Luzuriaga perfected the ovens called "*economicos*" that D. Agustin Montilla later utilized in his Hacienda Constancia in Ubay. Steam-driven mills caused the whistling of vapor to be heard throughout the island. The spin-drying of sugar was undertaken in San Ildefonso, Minuluan and Constancia.

Insulares from Molo and Jaro moved to Bacolod. Simeon Ledesma and Lucio Lacson went to Minuluan to lay out their properties. Ledesma and Cornelio Hilado formed the portentous hacienda at Bagacay, and Lacson opened "the great and beautiful Matabang and Binonga."

Valladolid, an enormous forest inhabited by Negritos, descendents of Inampulugan, saw their ancestral lands converted into a town. Where they once lived became the home of the heiress of D. Hugo Kok.

In Sarabia, there were 30 steam mills and 84 animal-driven mills. The ancient Toc-gauan, once a mangrove and attacked by Moros in the recent past, became a town in 1860. This was followed by a lot of activity: land was mapped out, bought and sold, barrios and haciendas established and the island geared for progress.

Mills utilizing water were installed in Minuluan, Bago, Bacolod, La Carlota and Granada. Trains ran by Ilog, Pontevedra, Minuluan, Sarabia, La Carlota, Silay and Bais. Canals were dug, the manner of cultivating the soil improved, and the use of fertilizer initiated. For greater security against fire, warehouses and homes had their roofs converted to galvanized iron.

Who could have guessed that the production of sugar would cause so much economic dislocation a century later?

Dreaming

YOUNGBLOOD

Karen Mae V. Gican

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.

IMAGINE a nine-year-old girl carrying her polio-stricken younger brother on her back. Their older brother is walking slightly ahead of them, carrying their three big backpacks, which are too heavy for his frail frame. They walk from the gate of the school to their respective classrooms, oblivious of the people who look their way as they walk confidently.

That girl was me. We were one of the poorest students in school, but this did not keep me from giving my best and dreaming of good things. In the future, when I have children of my own, I often thought, I'll send them to a good school, just like ours. I'll give them enough *baon* for snacks, so that they won't have to watch their classmates eating while their stomachs are churning. I'll make sure they have several good pairs of socks so that they won't use worn-out ones which slide down their feet after they take a few steps. And of course we will eat nutritious food three times a day, every day!

In high school, I took the first step in pursuit of this dream by studying in the country's premier science high school in Diliman, Quezon City. Though I had to endure being separated from my family by several islands, I had free tuition, books, uniforms, transportation allowance and a monthly stipend.

Thinking that I was already on the way to success, I was very embarrassed when we took a boat without enough money to pay for our fare. Daddy, who was jobless at the time, was in Manila for training. We wanted to attend my younger brother's graduation where he was going to get the award for being "Best in Math." We went to Manila's North Harbor with only P200.

When the purser started going around to inspect the ticket, Dad went forward to meet him and his assistants. Dad explained our predicament, while I stood behind him crying in fear and embarrassment. Thank God, they understood our problem. The purser accepted P150 for our fare. We ate almost nothing for two days.

Things became better when Dad became a seaman. But this did not last long, because on his fourth year of sailing the seas, instead of abandoning ship, he abandoned us. My brothers and I were already in college while our youngest was still in grade school when that tragedy struck. We were all forced to stop our studies.

Two years later, I decided to fight for my dreams once again. I grabbed the first opportunity that came my way, and this opened a very tough chapter in my life.

I experienced countless days when I did not eat; when I had to ask for "*pamasahe*" from my friends; when I had to receive hand-me-downs. There came a time came when all I had to wear were hand-me-downs and I had to use my friend's underwear (she lent me those) because mine had worn out; when I had to walk to and from the campus, sometimes under the heat of the sun; when beggars came to me and I wanted to cry out, "*Buti pa nga kayo may pera, e!*"; when I had to move from one boarding house to another because I couldn't pay the rent; when I had to baby-sit my friend's son so I could have free lunch. The list of woes is almost endless, and I bore all these in the hope of having a better future.

I can't forget the time when my friends had to pool their resources just so I could enroll? I thank God for these friends who sacrificed for me, as well as for some strangers who also lent their help. They made me stronger in my resolve to succeed.

Life for me has really meant a lot of sacrifice, spiced with much hope. In my senior year I had to stick to doing a thesis that I didn't like because I could used the laboratory for free. Time was a big factor in my experiments and if I stopped somewhere, I would have had to start the whole process all over again. But how could I finish when I often was hungry and almost had no strength even to stand? But I tried. And as often as I felt weak, my dreams reinvigorated me. I almost managed it, but in the final stage of the study, I was told that I had missed a step and had to start all over again!

After months of sleepless nights, after losing a lot of weight (I trimmed down to 84 pounds) and after two years, I decided to get another adviser and finished my new thesis in one semester.

With all these problems, it should be no surprise to anyone that it took me eight years to earn my degree. And couldn't go home for almost four years, afraid that if I did, I might not be able to go back to Los Baños.

I used to think that money was only made powerful by the people who made it powerful. Now, I am convinced that money by itself is powerful, even if it is still the root of all evil.

Despite everything that I have gone through, my childhood dreams remain the same. I learned to shed my embarrassment when I had to beg for "*pamasahe*" from my friends, and discretion when I had to walk to and from the campus. I learned that there are many people with golden hearts, who are willing to give and sacrifice so that someone else's dream may come true. I was humbled by receiving and serving. I learned to treasure the people I am indebted to, and I intend to pay them back at least with my success. I will never forget my friends who shared their allowance with me. Imagine stretching a P500 allowance to cover my own! Another friend invited me to live with her for free and made arrangements for me to eat her free lunch in the restaurant she worked for. From them I learned that while the circumstances I found myself in could be disheartening, I only had to look around and hope will come in many disguises.

My lack of money earned me many friends who loved me and who were loyal to me. It also strengthened my resolve to be successful in life and give the best in all of my endeavors. Success is only another name for perseverance. As Art E. Berg put it:

"I have decided that my current circumstances did not mean I had to let go of my dreams. Dreams are never destroyed by circumstances. Dreams are born in the heart and mind, and only there can they ever die. But while the difficult takes time, the impossible just takes a little longer."

Karen Mae V. Gican, 25, a B.S. Chemistry of the University of the Philippines Los Baños and is now in Balingasag, Misamis Oriental, waiting for favorable answers to her job application with several companies.

THEY SAID

Teaching plunder

"The government cannot try to prevent plunderers and dictators from ever rising again on one hand while some of its own public school teachers teach the 'virtues' of plunder and dictatorship on the other."

—Presidential Commission on Good Government Chair Haydee Yorac said in a letter to Education Secretary Raul Roco after his department got actively involved in the death anniversary celebration of former President. Ferdinand Marcos in Ilocos Norte

Teaching the truth

"Some people like Marcos, some do not. But whether we like him or not, we have to teach the truth. And we can't depart from the truth that power deluded Marcos into thinking that his words were true. Marcos failed, and that is what should be taught."

—Education Secretary Raul Roco on what should be taught about former President Fernando Marcos

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The National Association of Philippine Newspapers

Drugs and terrorist groups go together

WHILE termites live and feed on wood, terrorists live in style and feed on hard cash supplied generously by the prosperous narcotic business. Terrorists also nourish their bulging coffers with donations from friendly individuals and sympathetic governments. Frequent—ly, they resort to compulsory and threatening taxation in the best Mafia style.

What is evident is that insurgency, narco-trafficking and terrorism are intertwined threads that seek to destroy the very fabric of our society.

On Sept. 20, 2001, the Center for Strategic and International Study held a conference where Zbigniew Brzezinsky, former National Security Adviser, said: "I think we are dealing with a situation in which the terrorist networks have been financed at times by governments, at times by the drug trade, at times by rich individuals who have been shaken down—particularly if they either live in or are connected to the government of weak and corrupt states."

US Deputy Attorney General Michael Chertoff has admitted that "we can't differentiate between terrorism and organized crime and drug dealing. These groups do not hold themselves ihdependent. They work with one another. Terrorists get engaged in drug activity. They have relationships with organized crime."

CNN reported that Pentagon officials have targeted illicit drug production to cut off the Taliban militia's funding, which amounts to $50 million.

British Prime Minister Tony Blair recently told in a press conference that there is a close association between terrorism and narco-trafficking.

Whatever groups controls narco-trafficking inevitably become so bold that they start to affect the outcome of national elections. They pour money into the electoral process so that their chosen candidates become presidents or members of Congress: Let us hope no Filipino president joins this shameful list in the future!

Terrorist groups from different countries often act like a pack of wolves ready to pounce on their victim. They train together in rogue countries. They exchange messages to form tactical alliances. And they act as proxies for other terrorist groups. Thus, the Japanese Red Army, terrorists massacred people at the Lod Airport in Israel on behalf of another group. There seems to be camaraderie among these factions and groups that transcend frontiers, nations and continents.

It is not unlikely that terrorists with different agendas in their respective countries often form coalitions to pursue a common offensive goal. Years ago, terrorists trained primarily in Libya and Yemen. Today, they flock to Afghanistan to get their doctorates in guerrilla warfare and terrorism. Afghanistan is not only one big university for these professions but also a land that has surpassed the production of opiates formerly claimed by the Golden Triangle.—**MIGUEL PEREZ-RUBIO, ambassador (ret.), San Geronimo, Magallanes Village, Makati City**

LETTERS

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER My WiSHBOX WAVE 89.1

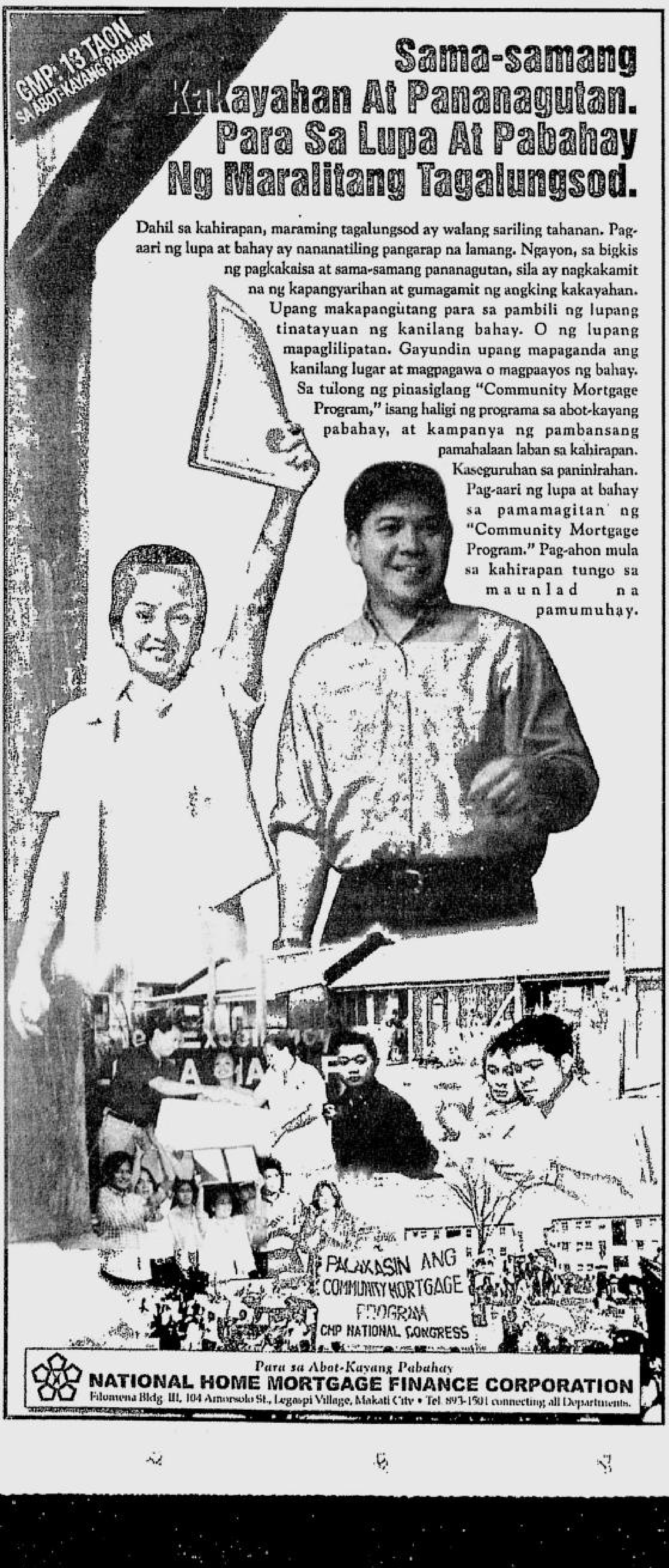
DO YOU WANT TO WIN
THESE FABULOUS CD'S
FROM MCA UNIVERSAL?

It's so easy!
All you have to do is fill out this coupon
and fax it to WAVE 89.1 at 632-9283.
All entries for today will be drawn
and winners will be notified
via fax or text within the day.

Name: ______ Age: ______
Address: ______
______ Phone: ______
Fax: ______ Cell: ______ E-Mail: ______

Today's prize courtesy of:
UNIVERSAL
MCA UNIVERSAL

HINT: Check out *People at Work of the Business Section* on Wednesday, October 24 for My Wish Box.



Sama-samang
Kakayahan At Pananagutan.
Para Sa Lupa At Pabahay
Ng Maralitang Tagalungsod.

Dahil sa kahirapan, maraming tagalungsod ay walang sariling tahanan. Pag-aari ng lupa at bahay ay nananatiling pangarap na lamang. Ngayon, sa bigkis ng pagkakaisa at sama-samang pananagutan, sila ay nagkakamit na ng kapangyarihan at gumagamit ng angking kakayahan. Upang makapangutang para sa pambili ng lupang tinatayuan ng kanilang bahay. O ng lupang mapaglilipatan. Gayundin upang mapaganda ang kanilang lugar at magpagawa o magpaayos ng bahay. Sa tulong ng pinasiglang "Community Mortgage Program," isang haligi ng programa sa abot-kayang pabahay, at kampanya ng pambansang pamahalaan laban sa kahirapan. Kaseguruhan sa paninirahan. Pag-aari ng lupa at bahay sa pamamagitan ng "Community Mortgage Program." Pag-ahon mula sa kahirapan tungo sa maunlad na pamumuhay.

Para sa Abot-Kayang Pabahay
NATIONAL HOME MORTGAGE FINANCE CORPORATION
Filomena Bldg. III, 104 Amorsolo St., Legaspi Village, Makati City • Tel. 893-1501 connecting all Departments.

Goodbye Billy

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

WHEN PLDT started the first of its "Hello, Billy" ads last year, the public reacted with amusement to its characters. The ad featured Billy, a Filipino living overseas, and his mother, who's always calling in and poking into her son's personal life and probing about a mysterious Gracia.

The "Hello, Billy" series, as with most ads, played on stereotypes, especially that of the nosey Pinay mother. Billy's mom wasn't just stereotypical, she was archetypal. After I wrote about Billy's mom in my column, I had friends—Italian, Jewish, Chinese—calling in to claim her as their own.

Ads can poke fun at society's stereotypes, making us think and say, "Yeah, that's silly." In some cases, ads may even stimulate the public to create their own plots and scripts, challenging stereotypes with other stereotypes.

Which is what happened with the PLDT ad. Early after the ads first appeared, there were already text messages going around, spoofing the ad itself. One particular variation had Billy's mom calling her son. "Gracia?" she asks the person answering the phone. The other party replies, "*Hindi po, si Graciano.*"

The gay community took that variation in stride; in fact, I suspect it was someone gay who started that text message going. Suddenly, a TV ad character became the object of intense *tsismis*: was he straight, gay, bisexual?

But even as people debated about Billy's sexual orientation, a gay character emerged in the ads. Courtesy of Billy's mother, now stereotyped as the *tsismosa Nanay*, the nation learned that Billy was indeed serious about this Gracia. Out from the shadows emerged a new character, Joey, apparently one of Billy's gay friends, depicted as someone completely dismayed by the news.

Again, there was speculation in the gay community: Was there some shared past between Billy and Joey? How many San Miguels did they drink together? Why was Joey hiding behind a luggage cart at the airport, looking so broken-hearted as he spied on Billy bringing home his Gracia?

Then PLDT did another episode showing a disturbed Billy asking Joey about ugly rumors concerning Gracia. Who could have spread such vicious rumors? The camera pans across Joey's face and we know, immediately, who the culprit is.

Gay groups were furious. The Library Foundation (TLF), an organization that has been quietly doing information, education and advocacy work with gay men, fired the first salvo, followed by Lagablab, a lesbian and gay advocacy coalition. One reader sent me a compilation of rather scathing anti-PLDT comments taken from chat rooms, including calls to boycott the entire Metro Pacific business conglomerate (which controls PLDT) and Ace/Saatchi, the ad agency.

Again, I have to emphasize that stereotyping itself is not necessarily bad. I loved the ad for Skyflakes showing two burly men, one with tattoos and the other there to comfort his special friend.

Likewise, in the PLDT ad, Billy's stereotyped mom got many Filipinos chuckling. In fact, the ones who probably laughed out the loudest were the ones among us who have such moms—moms who never stop hounding us about girlfriends (or boyfriends), and moms who write letters to scold nasty people who dare to criticize their sons. (If it were not for his venerable age, Sen. Blas Ople would have gotten the public's wrath descending on him for daring to criticize a Pinay mom.)

All that is different from the way gay men are stereotyped in the PLDT ad. The Skyflakes ad tells the public a jeepney driver can be gay too and gruffly gentle. The PLDT ad tells us the *bakla* is dangerous when jealous, ready to do anything to destroy perceived rivals.

Joey's stereotyping, Lagablab points out, exposes the gay community to "ridicule and abuse" because it reinforces existing prejudices: "Priests who have condemned homosexuals for immorality, parents who have taught their children that homosexuality is evil, comedians who believe that slapping homosexuals is funny, and, yes, advertisements that portray homosexuals negatively—they all have a role to play why some homosexuals lose their job, get unfair treatment from restaurants or hospitals, or even get killed. All because of their sexual orientation."

Lagablab makes an important point: the ads reinforce already adversely negative attitudes toward gay people in Philippine society. Television comedies are even worse, with *bakla* characters subjected to outrageous indignities. The other night, I caught one television episode showing a *bakla's* face being dunked in a pool of urine, accompanied by canned laughter. Is this just another harmless instance of Pinoy toilet humor? I don't think so. Repeated day in and day out, such images make it that much easier for a gang of thugs to beat up a *bakla* "just for fun."

What's disturbing, too—and Lagablab points this out—is that many of these anti-gay ads and TV scripts are actually done by gay men. I'm not surprised. We like to claim Filipinos are tolerant about homosexuals when in reality, the biases are so overwhelming and pervasive that they are internalized by gay men as well.

Ricky Villabona, a friend who works with the ad industry, told me he wasn't offended by that last "Hello Billy" ad. What he did find disturbing was the way a gay character was inserted into the whole series, even before the last episode. Joey is there not just as comic relief, but as a joke in itself. The message that comes through, for Ricky, is that being gay is one big bad joke in itself.

He's right. The image of the weak, desperate, scheming gay man, deserving only ridicule and spite, seeps into society's collective psyche, and that includes the minds of gay men as well, who then work on more anti-gay ads and scripts.

The PLDT ads had a good start but it's time to say "Goodbye, Billy."

* * *

Comments to miguel@pinoykasi.net

Offensive stereotyping in commercials

I AM 27 years old and I am a gay man. I find offensive the latest PLDT commercial showing Joey informing Billy about rumors regarding Gracia. This commercial stereotypes gays as rumormongers and malicious individuals who have nothing better to do than break up a happy heterosexual couple.

In recent months, several gay organizations have expressed alarm over the kinds of gay images exhibited in media. This latest commercial appears to be out of touch with reality.

Like many other gay men and women, I was glad to see a gay-friendly commercial on television these past months. The commercial was a promotion for the November Ad Congress. It featured a very athletic, well-to-do, 29-year-old gay character jogging. I am certain you are familiar with this commercial. And I can also guarantee that this type of gay man is not just a product of an advertiser's imagination. Individuals like these do exist. This commercial had a positive effect on me as a consumer, who just happens to be gay. It is a sign that the advertising world has finally recognized my group as a legitimate market. Gays can have a major influence in consumer market. We buy more clothes, health and fitness products and magazines, and we regularly attend social events like concerts, plays and the like.

This is why I find this latest PLDT commercial disappointing. The sponsors are in danger of losing a very big market. They ought to keep in mind that there are gay subscribers and I am sure that most of them will have the same reaction. The commercial proves that PLDT and its advertising agency are still ignorant about how most gays really live. Their perception of us is still based on old and negative stereotypes.

Earlier this year, a gay organization conducted a forum on the subject of images of gays in media. One of the things we discussed was the "airport episode" in the Billy-Gracia commercial series. At that point, some of us concluded that that episode was tolerable and it would be best to just let it go. Better to choose our battles. In addition, some of us found the commercial a bit humorous. Others however found it disappointing. And they were very vocal about it.

However, I find it difficult to simply ignore the latest commercial. It is true that some gays do spread rumors. But is this an exclusive gay activity? This does not give anybody license to generalize.

I hope that PLDT and the ad agency will rectify this matter.—**ROBERTO MENDES, Valenzuela City**

Media hype on flu outbreak

I LAMENT the media "hyping" of some news stories.

One example is the influenza outbreak. While the Department of Health said that it had nothing to do with bioterrorism, being a plain outbreak of the disease, the media took a week of overhyping by asking over and over again the DOH, school officials and parents about it, using the excuse of "public information" as the reason for its repetitiveness. It is so irritating to hear radio and television stations beating the issue to death and blowing it out of proportion. Media *lang yata and hindi nakakaintindi.* Daily television newscasts, magazine shows, tele-documentaries, investigative reports and even weekend programs hyped the flu outbreak.

On TV, both GMA and ABS-CBN whipped up a frenzy over the influenza outbreak. It was so disgusting and an insult to the public.—**MAYNARD L. FLORES, mayfox@cdo.philcom.com.ph**

Narcopolitics is here

THE RECENT seizure of about 500 kilos of shabu from China should jolt us to the horrifying reality that narcopolitics does exist in our country today, contrary to the testimony of Director Reynaldo Acop and Supt. John Campos in the Senate hearings that narcopolitics isn't making any headway in our government.

The Sept. 11 terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon in the United States have shocked everyone all over the world. In reaction to this, the Concerned Women of the Philippines would like to call the attention of all Filipinos to yet another kind of terrorism that has stealthily invaded and spread over all parts of the country for several years now. This is the terrorism of the drug menace—a chronic kind of terrorism that takes over and slowly destroys the mind, the moral fiber and the very soul of the human being. The violence caused by illegal drugs may not seem to be as shocking and terrifying as the attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, but if its victims could only reveal and relate the havoc that drugs have wreaked on their lives, the violence that drug dependence leads to and the other crimes it causes, these can be as dramatic, as shocking and as terrifying.

We of the CWP therefore call on government officials to take the necessary measures to combat and eradicate this kind of terrorism: the drug menace. We exhort our fellow Filipinos to be seriously concerned and vigilant and to support those who have bravely come out to expose this evil which is fast destroying the lives of our people, especially our youth!—**EVELYN LAO KILAYKO, chair, Concerned Women of the Philippines, 265-C Katipunan Road, Loyola Heights, Quezon City**

Taiwan a government, not a nation

I WOULD like to share my insights regarding Taiwan's bid for United Nations membership. (PDI 9/17/01) It is an issue that has yet to be resolved by two opposing forces.

I am a Chinese-Filipino student who feels that one is obligated to comment about this unresolved matter. China denies the admission of Taiwan into the United Nations believing that since it is a member of the United Nations, it also means that Taiwan is already a member since Taiwan is a part of China.

Based on historical facts, Mao Zedong's army successfully overthrew the Nationalists and founded the People's Republic of China. The Nationalists, on the other hand, organized an opposing government in Taiwan, the Republic of China.

In my view, the Nationalists formed a government, not a nation. Taiwan has stood for the past 52 years as a government, not as a nation. This is why I feel that Taiwan should not be allowed to be a member of the United Nations for Taiwan is not a nation.

Furthermore, Taiwan was a part of China before the Nationalists occupied it, and it still is a part of China.

Other nations could never think of having two opposing forces as members of an organization—the United Nations—that promotes peace.—**PHILRICH CO, Saint Jude Catholic School, Quezon City**

The WORLD

LUVERNE B. GUECO, EDITOR

World puts up defenses vs bioterror

WASHINGTON—Caution reined supreme around the world Sunday, as the United States disclosed it had a new anthrax victim and governments from Europe to Asia took measures to defend against bioterrorism.

A unnamed US postal employee, who works at a Washington distribution center that services the US Congress, was in serious but stable condition after inhaling anthrax spores.

The US Surgeon General did not hide his concern.

"Inhalation anthrax in a serious disease," he said on CNN's 'Late Edition' program. "Our experience is that it has a very high mortality rate."

On Capitol Hill, men dressed in biohazard suits continued to scour congressional buildings, testing the environment for traces of the deadly bacteria.

Anthrax spores have already been discovered in the Ford House Office Building and Hart Senate Office Building, and authorities wasted no time declaring they would go to all 19 buildings of the US Capitol complex to make sure they were safe for lawmakers.

The ill postal worker brought to nine the number of people in the United States who have contracted anthrax. Twenty-nine have tested positive for anthrax exposure.

As US investigators scrambled to trace the source of the deadly bacteria, officials around the world took precautionary measures.

Latex gloves and protective masks were supplied to German ballot counters Sunday after polls in regional elections for Berlin closed.

Although no anthrax scare was reported, doctors were also deployed near polling stations, as were many of the 2,500 police officers mobilized for the day.

Anthrax fears gripped the small town of Silchar in violence-torn northeast India, where a newspaper editor said he had received a letter containing a suspicious white powder.

Atin Das, the editor of a Bengali language daily in the state of Assam, said the letter containing the powder had been preceded by a message from a group called the Islamic Jihad Force in Assam warning him against carrying unfavorable reports about Osama bin Laden in his newspaper.

Bin Laden, a Saudi-born Islamic militant who lives in Afghanistan, is believed to be the chief mastermind of the Sept. 11 terror attacks in the United States.

"We are prepared to meet the situation and there is no need to panic," assured Indian Health Minister C.P. Thakur, adding that three letters mailed from abroad to addresses in India had tested negative for anthrax spores.

For the first time, an anthrax scare hit the Gulf state of Bahrain, where a letter containing a powder landed Sunday at American Express headquarters in Manama.

Local health ministry experts rushed to the scene to test the substance, and some American Express personnel were evacuated from the building.

The results of the tests were not immediately available.

In Britain, public anxiety edged up after a government report predicting massive casualties in the event of a biological or chemical terrorist attack leaked to the press.

The document, described by the Independent newspaper, said emergency services and mortuaries could be overwhelmed if an unexpected attack contaminated thousands of civilians.

But in an attempt to crackdown on a proliferation of hoaxes, the British government announced new legislation under which hoaxers will face up to seven years in jail.

In Amman, Jordan's health ministry announced the discovery of letters similar to those carrying anthrax germs that instead had flour or starch similar.

In recent days health officials examined 11 suspect letters or packages, "but found them to contain simple powder," said the director of health care at the ministry, Saad Kharabsheh, describing the letters as "bad jokes."

According to medical sources, the letters sent in the most part by Jordanians to friends as a joke. *AFP*

Bin Laden's network is new form of enemy

By Samia Nakhoul

BEIRUT—The eyes of the world opened on Sept. 11 to a new nightmare—a modern, sophisticated enemy that differs from the deadly Muslim fundamentalist groups the West has recognized as "terrorists" over the past two decades.

Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida (The Base) network is a confederation of like-minded religious zealots, an organization with the resources and ruthless capacity to kill using any means—including nuclear weapons if they can get them.

But unlike other Islamists, who have had only national aims and drew members from the disenfranchised, the Bin Laden network has given notice that it wants to defeat the entire Western civilization it deems an enemy, with its own modern tools.

"Some people in the network had the skill, the knowledge and the experience to do this sort of attack. They know how the modern world works, they grew up in it, they were educated in it," said George Joffe, a Middle East expert at Cambridge University.

And, experts say, the group draws on Bin Laden's significant financial resources and transnational ties to unite disparate militant movements into a coordinated global struggle.

"What makes him unique is that he globalized terrorism, therefore he can use different individuals with different skills. This enables him to confront the world. All the other groups are local," analyst Magnus Ranstorp from St. Andrews University in Scotland said.

"It's like the privatization of terror. He recruits from everywhere so he can tap into the vast reservoir of people to strike at his enemy," he added.

The clandestine organization targets middle class, educated and well-traveled students, as well as former Arab volunteers who fought against Soviet forces in Afghanistan in the 1980s.

They recruit them, train them and test their dedication and commitment to pitiless killing by assigning them daring and risky tasks over a period of time to check their performance, blind faith and secrecy, experts say.

The 44-year-old Bin Laden, a Muslim who sees himself as waging a war sanctioned by God, imported fighters to Afghanistan with Washington's blessing in the 1980s; a decade later he started exporting them back to strike at what he perceived to be "the enemy of Islam."

Global reach

al-Qaida, a network of Islamists formed by fighters resisting the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan, has mushroomed into dozens of cells around the globe. It comprises Egyptians, Saudis, Yemenis, Afghanis, Pakistanis and Algerians.

Experts said Bin Laden looks for individuals with certain psychological characteristics, including high intelligence and religious zeal to manipulate and influence them.

A charismatic figure, skilled in propaganda and psychological warfare, he presses all the right buttons for those who feel oppressed by the United States.

"He's like a virus that infects and multiplies and spreads randomly," Ranstorp said.

His aim is to overthrow existing regimes in the Middle East and south and central Asia. His message is tailored to spark the Muslim conscience and mobilize the Muslim community, he said.

He seeks to reform the Muslim world with his own vision of Islam, the Wahhabi creed associated with Saudi Arabia, where he was born into a wealthy family but which has now stripped him of his citizenship.

Until Al-Qaida was founded, all violent Islamist groups such as Egypt's Al-Jihad, the Gama'a Islamiya and Algeria's Armed Islamic Group (GIA) were fighting local battles aimed at installing a purist Islamic state.

Bin Laden has taken them all under his wing.

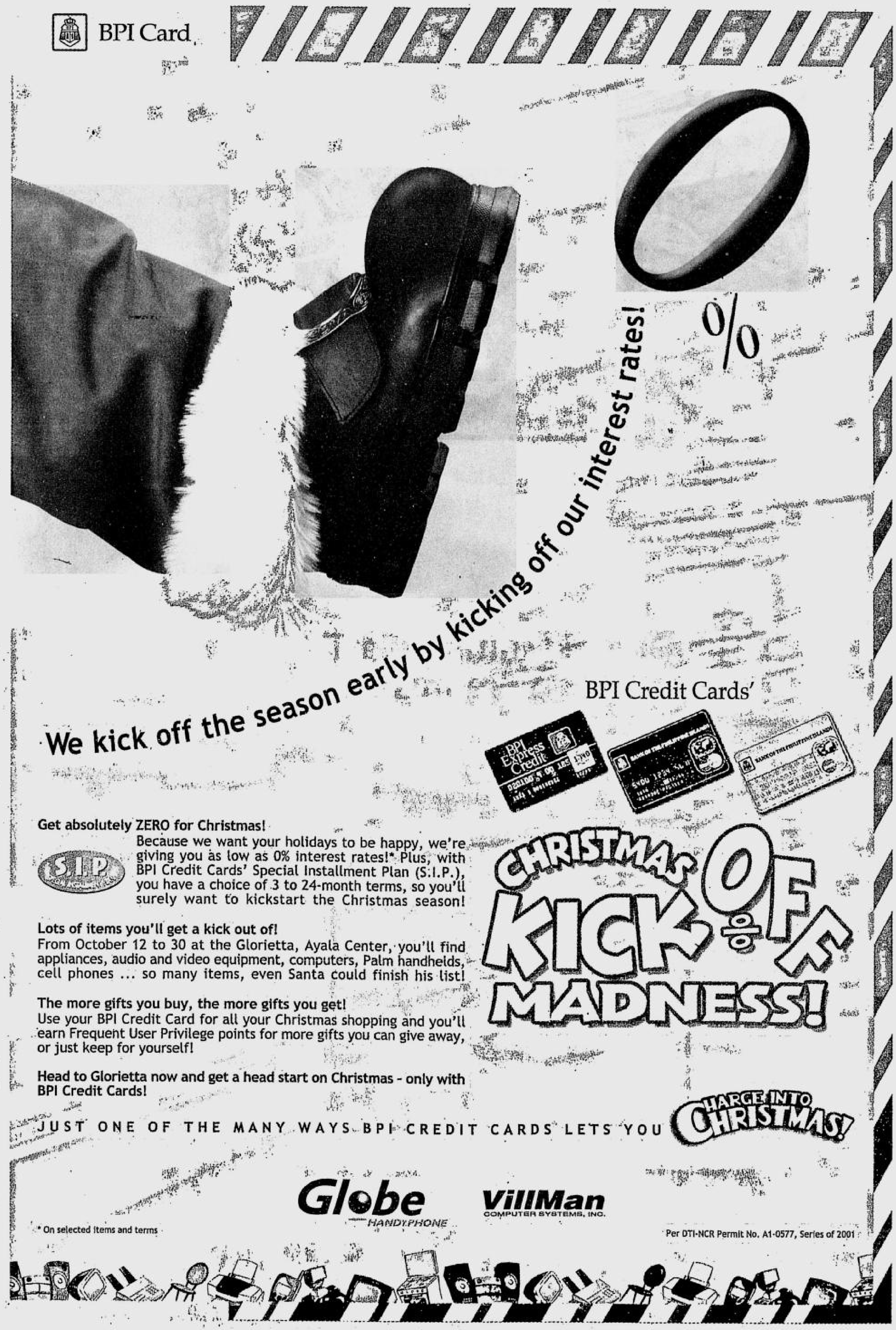
Other groups, such as Hamas and Islamic Jihad in the occupied Palestinian territories and Hezbollah in Lebanon, have carried out suicide attacks against targets in Israel or Lebanon. They see themselves, and are largely seen locally, as resistance groups to Israeli occupation.

Bin Laden and the anti-Soviet Afghan movement were pan-Islamic in their origin, and conceived as such by their backers—Saudi Arabia, Pakistan and the United States—who together armed and trained volunteers, including many Arabs.

Once billed by the United States as cold warriors, they saw themselves as holy warriors. After their victory against the Red Army, al-Qaida became autonomous and found reasons to turn its wrath against the West.

The target, experts say, is Western intervention: US troops in Saudi Arabia, US backing of Israel's occupation of Palestinian land, the US-led sanctions imposed on Iraq.

But despite his stated aims, Bin Laden came to identify his enemy as an entire civilization—polarizing "Muslim believers and (Western) infidels" in a videotaped message after last month's attack on the United States that killed nearly 6,000 people. *Reuters*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Ancient temple to Ishtar uncovered in Iraq

BAGHDAD—Iraqi archaeologists in a new find have uncovered a temple dedicated to the goddess Ishtar at the ancient city of Babylon, 90 km south of Baghdad, the weekly Tikrit newspaper reported on Sunday.

"Cuneiform inscriptions on the 25 artifacts found at the temple indicate that the building dates back to the old Babylonian era, and to the reign of King Hammurabi (1792-1750 BC) in particular," Tikrit quoted a source at the Antiquities and Heritage Department as saying.

Ishtar was the goddess of love in Babylonia and Assyria.

Under various names, the cult of the mother goddess was universal in the ancient Near East.

Tikrit reported that excavation teams had also discovered a house with an open courtyard, a number of rooms and graves inside the house in the temple area. *Reuters*

A PALESTINIAN Christian cries over the body of his wife killed in a crossfire between Palestinians and Israeli troops in the West Bank town of Bethlehem Oct. 21. REUTERS

Palestinians outlaw group that claimed Israel minister slay

JERUSALEM—The Palestinian leadership has outlawed the group that claimed responsibility for the assassination of an Israeli Cabinet minister, after Israeli troops tightened their grip on six West Bank towns.

In the widest operation by Israeli troops against the Palestinians in years, four Palestinians were killed Sunday by Israeli gunfire, including a 10-year-old girl.

At its weekly meeting in Gaza on Sunday, the Palestinian National Security Council singled out the armed wing of a radical PLO faction, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine. The PFLP said its men killed Israeli Cabinet minister Rehavam Zeevi last Wednesday, revenge for Israel's killing of the PFLP leader Aug. 27. Israel said he was responsible for attacks against Israelis.

The ban came as Israeli tanks and troops dug in around six of the eight West Bank towns turned over to Palestinian control starting in 1994, under interim peace agreements. The Israelis moved deeper into to two of them Sunday, Bethlehem and Ramallah.

In biblical Bethlehem, three Palestinians, a police officer and two civilians, were killed by Israeli gunfire Sunday. A tank shell fell about 50 meters from the Church of the Nativity, marking the traditional birthplace of Jesus. Palestinians said two people were wounded. The Israeli military said soldiers fired a tank shell after armed Palestinians shot at them.

The Israeli incursions followed the assassination of the Cabinet minister, and Israel demanded that the Palestinians arrest the killers and hand them over to Israel. The Palestinians responded by rounding up 20 PFLP activists, but said they would not be turned over to Israel.

Also, Yasser Arafat's Palestinian Authority outlawed any group that acts against the terms of a ceasefire, announced Sept. 26 but never fully implemented. However, the PFLP was not mentioned specifically until Sunday night.

Naming the PFLP's Abu Ali Mustafa Brigades, the council said they were responsible for last Wednesday's killing of Zeevi, and by their actions had allowed Israel to justify its incursion into the West Bank.

"We consider this group outlawed and it will be pursued," the council said in a statement. *AP*

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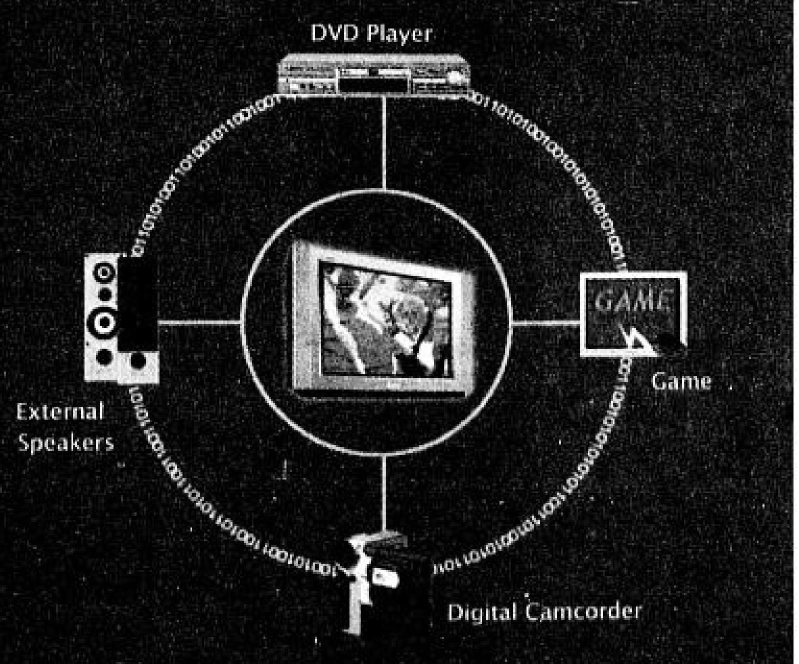

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Bush, Putin discuss missile policy at Apec

SHANGHAI, China—Brought closer together in the aftermath of the Sept. 11 terror attacks, US President George W. Bush and Russian President Vladimir Putin "made some progress" toward a new strategic framework that would include limited missile defenses.

Putin repeated Russia's well-known opposition to Bush's plans to withdraw from the 1972 Anti-Ballistic Missile pact.

But, he said, "We should think about the future, we should look into the future, and we should react adequately to possible threats in the future."

Putin and Bush met after the annual meeting of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation leaders. At a joint news conference, Bush repeated his description of the 1972 ABM treaty as "outmoded and outdated."

"The events of Sept. 11 make it clearer than ever that a Cold War ABM treaty that prevents us from defending our people is outdated and, I believe, dangerous," Bush said.

Much work

Regarding missile policy, Putin said, "We are prepared to discuss that with our American partners." He said there was much work to do on missile policy before their meetings next month in Washington and at Bush's ranch in Crawford, Texas.

Said Bush, "We will continue working with each other and see if we can't find common ground on the ABM treaty."

US officials had said ahead of the presidents' meeting that the US goal was to lay a foundation for significant advances in their meetings next month in the United States.

The Bush administration hopes that an offer it made earlier of deep cuts in its nuclear arsenal will make Russia amenable to modifications in the ABM treaty that would allow missile tests not permitted under the accord.

The Bush administration says a missile defense is needed to protect the United States against adversary nations—Iran, Iraq, and North Korea—that are developing long-range missile capabilities.

Russian officials have talked privately about possibly easing differences on strategic issues, even though Moscow's public posture remains unchanged.

At the news conference, Both Bush and Putin said they made progress during their talks. Putin cited specifically their effort to reduce strategic offensive weapons as well as ABM-related issues. "I believe we do have understanding that we can reach agreement," the Russian leader said.

Cooperation

Bush saw progress in what he hopes will be "a new relationship with Russia based on cooperation and mutual interests instead of confrontation and mutual vulnerability. We must truly and finally move beyond the Cold War."

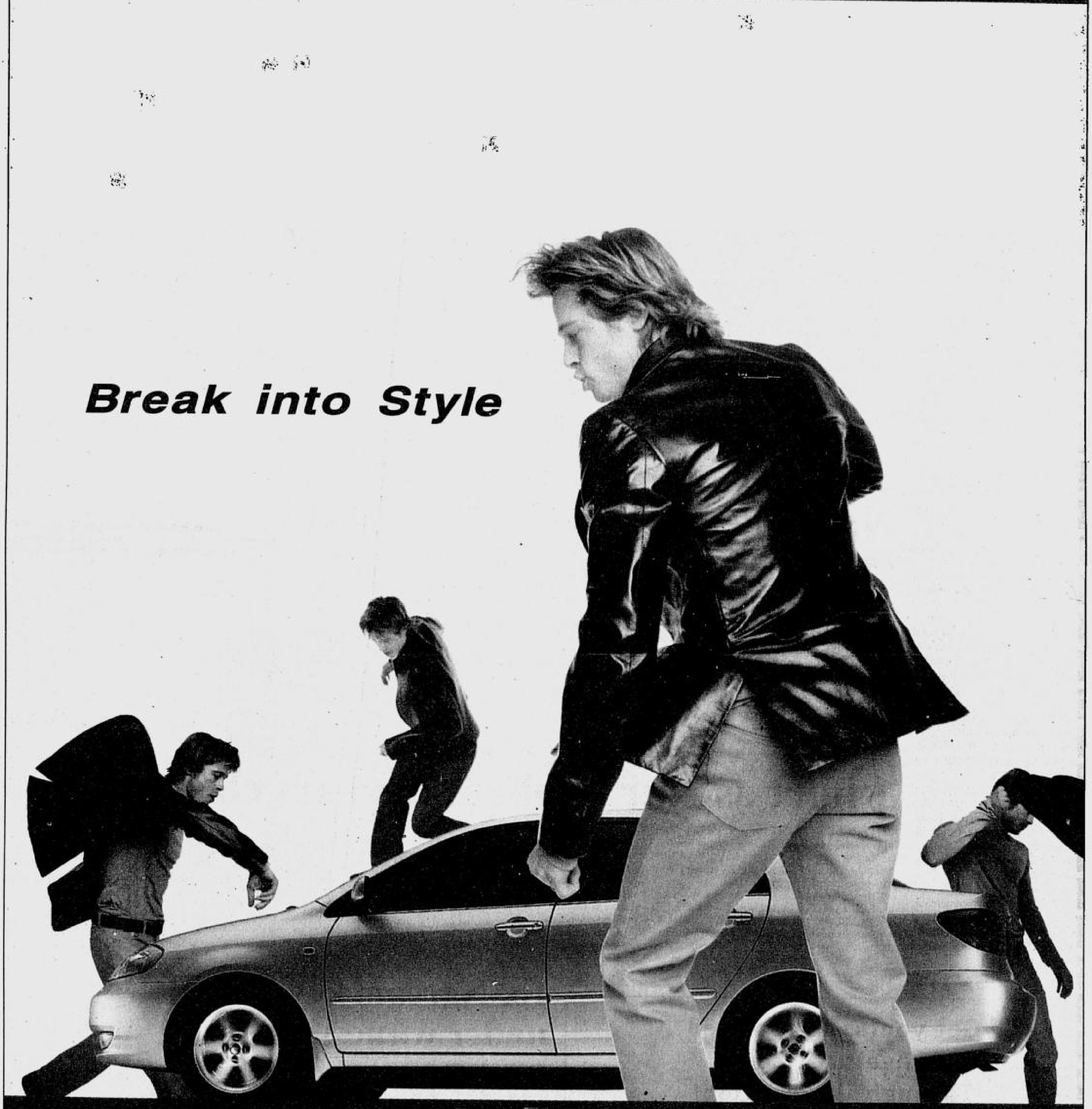
The new US-Russia relationship became evident on Sept. 11 in dramatic fashion.

"Vladimir Putin was the first person to call," Bush said, and the new friendship was clear from his decision to stop planned Russian military exercises.

"In the old days, had an American president put their troops on alert, Russia would have responded," Bush said. "And then America would have upped the ante, and then Russia would have upped the ante. We would have had two issues on our hands—one, a terrorist attack on America, plus a military standoff.

"Instead, his first reaction was to stand down, so as not to create any confusion, any doubt, so that the United States could stay focused on the terrorist attack," Bush said. *AP*

PASSION



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Mayor's son, friends sent to prison after rampage

BY CARLA P. GOMEZ
PDI Visayas Bureau

BACOLOD CITY—A mayor's son and seven of his companions have been detained after they allegedly went on a rampage on Friday in San Carlos City, some 144 kilometers north of this city.

Councilor Marvin Cardeñas, 20, and his friends allegedly tried to kill the brother of San Carlos Mayor Eugenio Lacson, threatened a San Carlos City councilor and fired their guns indiscriminately while fleeing from the scene.

Cardeñas is the son of Canlaon City Mayor Judith Cardeñas. He sits in the Canlaon City Council as president of the Sangguniang Kabataan.

Cardeñas and his friends refused to answer questions from reporters. His mother, Mayor Cardeñas, also declined to comment on the allegations.

Aside from Cardeñas, now detained at the San Carlos City Jail were Roy Penile, 23; Cristopher Baldevino, 23; Neil Mendoza, 18; Diosdado Alfons, 34; Roy Blanco, 24 and brothers Jun Pete, 25 and Jay Lacsican, 22.

The group is now facing charges of illegal possession of firearms filed at the San Carlos City Prosecutor's Office.

Supt. Ricardo de la Paz, police chief of San Carlos City, said his men recovered a 9mm Uzi machine pistol with four magazines containing 92 live ammunition, a .45 cal. pistol and a .357 magnum revolver from the suspects.

He said it would be up to Manolet Lacson, brother of Mayor Lacson, and San Carlos City Councilor Rene Gustilo to file additional charges against the suspects.

Lacson was brought to a hospital in Bacolod City for treatment of head injuries that he suffered after he was pistol-whipped by Cardeñas inside the Center Mall in San Carlos City on Friday.

De la Paz said Cardeñas allegedly pointed his gun at Lacson, who was with Gustilo, for no apparent reason.

When Cardeñas pulled the trigger, he said the suspect's .45 cal. pistol jammed. De la Paz said Cardeñas then pistol-whipped Lacson in the head.

De la Paz said Gustilo intervened and tried to parry Cardeñas' gun. But, he said, Cardeñas instead pointed his firearm at the councilor.

Cardeñas and his group fled the mall on board an Isuzu Adventure van and then fired their firearms along the way.

Responding policemen, however, caught up with the suspects in downtown San Carlos, a few meters from the mall. They surrendered after the police fired warning shots, the police report said.

De la Paz said the arresting officers noticed that Cardeñas and his seven companions were under the influence of liquor at that time.

Aside from the firearms, he said his men recovered empty bottles of whiskey and beer from the van.

Army says 6 NPAs killed in encounter

LUCENA CITY—Six communist guerrillas were slain during an encounter with government soldiers in Gumaca town on Saturday.

Maj. Gen Narciso Abaya, Southern Luzon Command chief, identified one of the suspected New People's Army rebels as Arnel Sipocot alias Ka Salvador, alleged chief finance officer of Plager Maxell II, a guerrilla front that operates in the Bondoc Peninsula and Lamon Bay areas.

Also killed were Leopoldo Aquino alias Ka Vargas, alleged political officer in the guerrilla front and four others who were still unidentified. Two other guerrillas were reported wounded.

Col. Ferdinand Bocobo, commanding officer of the 201st IB, said one of the documents recovered was a list of business firms and individuals from Gumaca, Atimonan, Plaridel, Lopez and Lucena City that contribute to the NPA.

The government soldiers suffered no casualties after 20 minutes of gunfire between combined police and military patrol teams and a band of more than 20 NPA shortly after noon in Barangay Villabota, in Gumaca.

Three M-16 rifles and communist documents were recovered from the bodies of the victims.

Lt. Col. Jorge Segovia, 76th IB commander, said they chanced upon the rebels while having lunch. "They were tipped to us by the villagers who were long fed up with the group extortion activities."

Bocobo said the Solcom is still compiling the list of alleged financiers and additional evidence to support the criminal case that they intend to file against the businessmen. "What they have committed is treason," he said.

Abaya said: "There were at least more than 3000 communist guerrillas operating in the region. Half of them were fully armed," he said. ***Delfin T. Mallari Jr. PDI Southern Luzon Bureau***

Car 'scam' rocks DA office

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—The Department of Agriculture office in Central Luzon this year paid at least P12 million in cash for 12 cars, not on a rent-to-own installment basis, but by making full payments at overpriced costs, a department employee revealed here Friday.

The employee, who asked not to be identified for fear of reprisal, said he made the disclosure because he and other field personnel were demoralized over using old service cars while their superiors, who were often office-based, were issued new ones.

"Several times, we could not monitor our projects because the vehicles assigned to us often conked out or stayed long in repair shops," the source said.

DA field personnel, according to him, were "appalled" that despite the government's austerity program, their officials were on a "car-buying spree."

But Cesar Rodriguez, DA assistant regional director, denied irregularities in the purchase.

He said the agency made full payments after the unpaid rentals became "accounts payable" items in this year's budget.

The regional DA office failed to make prompt payments to the car suppliers because the release of money from the Department of Budget and Management was also delayed, he said.

Rodriguez, reached by telephone from Nueva Ecija, also maintained that the cars were not overpriced.

The payments include registration and insurance costs, he said.

"We had no money yet to pay for the installments and so when the money was available, we paid them in full. It's as simple as that," he explained in Filipino.

The INQUIRER source said the newly purchased cars are Toyota Revo and Isuzu cross wheel type vehicles.

The Revo, which he said was parked in the garage of an official's house in Cavite, costs nearly P1 million when its price in the market fetches only about P700,000.

Another vehicle, a pickup, is parked in an official's house in Candaba. Another, an Isuzu, is idle at a house in St. Jude Village here.

All three cars bear green license plates instead of the red plates required for government-owned vehicles, he said.

But the nine others now bear red plates after a year of use since these were delivered starting early 2000.

Claiming being privy to the memorandum of agreements signed between the regional DA and two car suppliers from Pampanga and Tarlac, the source said the 12 cars amounted to about P12 million.

According to the source, the MOA set the terms of car ownership through rental payments after 12 to 15 months of use.

But instead of paying on an installment basis, he said the DA regional office obtained the cars by paying for these in full starting August this year.

The source said the DA's rent-to-own car scheme was a "shrewd way of pampering officials with whims for cars." ***Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk***

No wage hike in Cordillera this year

BAGUIO CITY—Despite nationwide protests calling for a P125 across-the-board wage increase, workers in the Cordillera would not get any pay raises this year, according to the Regional Tripartite Wage and Productivity Board.

Teodoro Delson, wage board secretary for the Cordillera, said it is not yet time to declare a wage increase in the region following two dialogues held between representatives of employers and workers last month.

Delson said the board's decision was also based on the findings of a recent board study indicating that Cordillera's socio-economic condition "does not warrant any wage increase."

"The region's inflation rate is still lower than the rest of the country. The Philippines has reached as much as 4.3-percent inflation rate for the third quarter while the Cordillera Administrative Region has only 3.9-percent (inflation rate)," he said.

He said the inflation rate in the Ilocos region is pegged at 4 percent while Central Luzon has a 4.1-percent inflation rate.

"Literally, the purchasing power of (the) peso in the Cordillera is still higher than anywhere in the Philippines so there is no reason for an increase," Delson said.

"Compared with other regions, Cordillera wage earners could still live decently even without increasing the region's minimum wage," he added.

Delson said the wage board has yet to receive a formal petition for wage increase in the region. "Otherwise, we will follow the law that there should be no increase within a year."

The wage board granted a P15-increase December last year and does not plan to order any increase until next year. The region's minimum wage is pegged at P185.

But members of the Confederation of Unity, Recognition and Advancement of Government Employees (Courage) said they would continue to call for a wage increase.

They vowed to stage work stoppages and "paralyze" government operations on Oct. 25 to dramatize their calls for wage increases both for government and private employees. ***Jovelyn Reyes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau***

1 hurt as Nur nephew, backers clash

COTABATO CITY—Heavily armed followers of Gov. Nur Misuari of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao clashed inside the ARMM compound here on Sunday night, causing panic among residents.

The military said the firefight, which wounded one MNLF member, started when Rommel Isnaji, son of ARMM regional legislative assembly speaker Alvares Isnaji, disarmed Sincere Misuari, the governor's nephew.

Rommel was with his escorts composed of MNLF members integrated into the military while the young Misuari was being escorted by members of the MNLF's National Security Command when the clash occurred.

Col. Alejandro Estomo, chief of the Army's 6th Infantry Battalion, said both sides were armed with high-powered guns including M-203 rifle grenade launchers.

Residents were awakened by a series of gunfire, which lasted for about 10 minutes.

While the gunfight was ongoing, military and police authorities who tried to pacify the warring groups were prevented from doing so by security personnel assigned at the ARMM compound.

Reports reaching the INQUIRER said the feud between Isnaji and the younger Misuari was prompted by rivalry over a position.

Yesterday, Mahendra Madjilon, ARMM information chief, said the problem was already amicably settled and that the two have reconciled. ***Edwin O. Fernandez and Charlie C. Señase, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

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Ex-Narcom spy placed under witness program

BACOLOD CITY—Ex-Narcotics Command spy Remus Garganera is now under the government's Witness Protection Program.

His lawyer, Jocelle Batapa, yesterday said Garganera received a certification from the Department of Justice that guarantees his coverage under the program.

She said a staff member of the DOJ asked her to go to Manila to iron out the memorandum of agreement that would specify the details of the protection program.

Garganera had testified before a Senate inquiry on Oct. 5 on the alleged criminal activities of Chief Supt. Reynaldo Acop, Supt. John Campus and other police officials.

He implicated Acop, Campos and other police officers in the alleged kidnapping and killing of suspected drug lords and the recycling of shabu.

Campos used to be the handler of Garganera who had worked as an agent of the Narcom then headed by Acop.

Despite his testimony, the DOJ failed to immediately release Garganera's certification, prompting Batapa to warn that she might advise her client not to complete his sworn statement filed with the police Criminal Investigation and Detection Group.

The CIDG was documenting the testimony of Garganera as contained in his affidavit before the Senate, which would be used in the filing of charges against Acop, Campos and the other police officers whom Garganera had implicated.

Batapa had appealed to President Macapagal-Arroyo to fast-track Garganera's coverage in the witness protection program because he fears for his life

Garganera and his family are still in the custody of the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines headed by Col. Victor Corpus.

Garganera surfaced as a witness after another witness, Mary "Rosebud" Ong, a former asset of the PNP, testified that suspected drug lords were being kidnapped and killed by the men of now Sen. Panfilo Lacson, former chief of the Philippine National Police.

Rosebud had challenged Garganera to come out in the open and reveal what he knew of the illegal operations of the police officers. ***Carla P. Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau***

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Visayas and Mindanao including Palawan will be mostly cloudy with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to at times cloudy with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	HI 32° Lo 24°
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	HI 27° Lo 16°
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	HI 30° Lo 20°
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	HI 36° Lo 24°
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	HI 32° Lo 23°
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	HI 30° Lo 22°
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	HI 29° Lo 24°
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	HI 33° Lo 23°
Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains	HI 31° Lo 25°
Roxas	Cloudy with Rains	HI 32° Lo 27°
Cebu	Cloudy with Rains	HI 32° Lo 24°
Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains	HI 29° Lo 24°
Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains	HI 32° Lo 23°
Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains	HI 33° Lo 24°
Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains	HI 31° Lo 24°
Davao	Cloudy with Rains	HI 32° Lo 24°

Compiled by: Ray Leyesa, PDI Research/10/23/01

ROUNDUP

Rebels burn plantation

MAKILALA, North Cotabato—Suspected New People's Army rebels attacked and burned a banana plantation owned by a multinational firm in Barangay Buhay here Saturday. Insp. Eduardo Paniqui, town police chief, said about 50 men armed with assault rifles entered the Stanfilco plantation about 10 a.m. looking for the firm's P4.5-million mobile banana processor but failed to find it. Workers said the suspects set on fire a building housing 80 boxes of bananas for export, three weighing scales and a farm tractor.
Edwin O. Fernandez, PDI Mindanao Bureau

10 fishermen nabbed

MATI, Davao Oriental—Ten fishermen were arrested for using air compressors while spear fishing at the protected Pujada Bay here. Alfeo Piloton, chief of the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, said the fishing method remains illegal as the provincial board has yet to pass an ordinance lifting an earlier ban. Local environmentalists said lifting the ban would cause massive destruction to coral reef formations. The arrested fishermen were charged before a court here, while two of their motorized *bancas* were seized. ***Ferdinand O. Zuasola, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

Suspected kidnapper held

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—Authorities arrested a suspected leader of a kidnap-for-ransom group operating in the Socsksargen area last week in Pantukan, Compostela Valley. Ustadz Asrap Mangelen alias Commander Pata, who carries a P200,000 reward on his head, was seen at Barangay Fatima here, said Supt. Abelardo Villacorta, Central Mindanao Police Intelligence Chief. Mangelen, however, denied the allegations and said he is an Arabic teacher. "I have never been involved with any kidnap-for-ransom group. My work is to propagate Islam and teach Arabic language," he said.
Aquiles Z. Zonio, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Red tide warning

MATI, DAVAO ORIENTAL—The Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources cautioned residents against gathering shellfish from the Balite Bay because of the high red tide toxin. Alfeo Piloton, BFAR chief here, said the ban imposed since June this year would continue especially after new tests bared that shellfish meat in the Bay still contain 156 micrograms per 100 grams. Piloton said this is far beyond the tolerable level of 40 micrograms per 100 grams of meat.
Ferdinand Zuasola, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Less rights violations

DAVAO CITY—Less human rights violations by the police and the military were reported during the first nine months of the year compared with the same period for 2000, said Dominador Calamba II, Commission on Human Rights regional director in Southern Mindanao. Calamba II said the series of human rights seminars given to the police could be the reason for the decline in abuses involving lawmen. The establishment of Barangay Human Rights Action Centers in the region also helped pre-empt rights violations, he said. Joel Virador, secretary general of Karapatan in Southern Mindanao, however, said the CHR release is not true.
Joselle Badilla, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Transfer of regional center

COTABATO CITY— Government has been formed to study the "implications and consequences" of transferring Central Mindanao's regional seat of government to Koronadal City. The move came amid the insistence from businessmen and various sectors to retain its regional center here because of the existing structures and facilities of which Koronadal City would still have to construct. The transfer will displace some 3,000 employees and their families who have become permanent residents here, businesswoman Estrellita Juliano-Tamano said. Koronadal Mayor Fernando Miguel announced Wednesday that this city has now been officially declared by Malacañang as the seat of Region 12, which under the new EO has been renamed Socsargen Region.
Charlie C. Señase, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Clark as business hub

ANGELES CITY—The Angeles City Council urged the government to make Clark a "business hub" that will be the center of economic development for Luzon. Alexander S. Cauguiran, President Pro-Tempore of the Angeles City Council, said skilled workers in Luzon number around 4.3 million, or more than one-fifth of the country's skilled workforce. Business firms at the Clark ecozone alone employ 21,696 workers as of Aug. 31 this year, Caugurian said. Cauguiran also urged the government to operate Clark International Airport, which was recently named Diosdado Macapagal International Airport, as the country's international airport pursuant to the Bases Conversion Law.

Bishop seeks stop to 'jueteng'

CABARROGUIS, Quirino—"Junie, please do something about this problem."

Like a father to a son, Bishop Ramon Villena of the Catholic diocese here has appealed to Rep. Junie Cua of the lone district of Quirino to stop the proliferation of *jueteng* here, after parish priests reportedly confirmed its continuous operations.

In a letter to Cua, Villena expressed dismay that because of "rampant" *jueteng* activities here, the bishop has failed in his "ultimate goal" of making the Diocese of Bayombong, which covers the provinces of Nueva Vizcaya and Quirino, "*jueteng*-free."

"I am very disturbed, considering the clear stand of the Macapagal-Arroyo (administration) on the matter and my personal and moral crusade against (*jueteng*)," the bishop said.

"You are in a position to personally attend to the matter, given your influence in local politics. We all owe it to our people and to the future of our children," Villena told the Quirino congressman.

Earlier, Catholic prelate expressed concern that gambling operations here were misconstrued to have his blessings, after he confirmed that alleged gambling lords have been going to his office, convincing him to allow their activities.

"I want to stress to my people that my position is firm:

Jueteng is evil and it should never be allowed (to operate)," he said.

According to a police officer who spoke on condition of anonymity, *jueteng* managed to operate in the province because of the approval of "higher authorities."

"You are fully aware of the situation that we, the policemen, are in. Damned if you do, damned if you don't," he told the INQUIRER. "Though we are opposed to *jueteng*, if higher authorities agree to it, there is nothing we can do."

But Supt. Rodolfo Tutaan, Quirino police director, claimed that *jueteng* here was part of the gambling lords' "guerrilla operations."

"We are continuously going after these (operators) of *jueteng* here and so far, we have been successful in arresting many of their personnel," he said.

He cited the arrest of at least 40 suspected *jueteng* workers in separate operations in Diffun town, but admitted that they have yet to trace the gambling lords who are supposedly financing the gambling activities there.

He said the police find it difficult to track down *jueteng* operators and their men because they are "highly mobile," and are reportedly holding draws in secluded areas.

Police intelligence reports indicated that *jueteng* draws were being held near the boundary of Isabela and Quirino, making it easy for *jueteng* workers to flee to nearby Cordon, Isabela in cases of raids. ***Melvin Gascon, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau***

Security tight for Camiguin 'lanzones' feast

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY—The military and police will scour the mountains and islets of Camiguin province, to increase security for this year's Lanzones Festival which will start Wednesday.

President Macapagal-Arroyo is expected to grace the festival in Mambajao, Camiguin's capital town.

Col. Francisco Garillo, 9th Infantry Battalion chief, said aside from putting in place a tight security for the President's visit, measures were being undertaken to ensure the safety of hundreds of tourists, both foreign and domestic, and thwart possible terrorist attacks.

He said more soldiers and police personnel would be dispatched to the island.

"We cannot take chances, with the global threat on terrorism. There's a possibility that terrorists would take advantage of the festival and carry out an attack," Garillo said.

He said that government troopers would go on foot patrol in the province's mountains, hills and islets.

The Lanzones Festival in Camiguin is a yearly celebration where locals perform various rituals, in dances and prayers, to give thanks to the gods for the bountiful harvest of their crops, particularly the *lanzones* fruit.

The festival has been a tourist come-on where visitors witness the many colorful street performances and taste the locally grown sweet *lanzones*. ***Butch D. Enerio, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

Warden fired after rebs freed inmate from jail

BY CHITO A. FUENTES
PDI Visayas Bureau

TAGBILARAN CITY—The Bureau of Jail Management and Penology (BJMP) has relieved SJO3 Nilo Laruda, jail warden of the Ubay Municipal Jail after suspected rebels sprung eight inmates from the jail on Wednesday.

Chief Insp. Fortunato Cadungog, BJMP Bohol chief, said in an interview over radio station dyTR on Friday that Laruda was not in his post when six armed men stormed the jail in Ubay town, some 123 kilometers northeast of this city, about 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday.

The suspected members of the New People's Army left with eight inmates, including Fernando Salaum, who was charged with illegal possession of firearms, frustrated murder, grave threats and malicious mischief.

Cadungog said Salaum, who was arrested in December last year, was suspected of being an NPA member. He added that Salaum never received any visitor while he was detained in the Ubay Municipal Jail.

Supt. Sancho Bernales, Bohol police chief, immediately formed a police team to hunt Salaum's group.

He also ordered police chiefs of neighboring towns to seal off the possible exit points of the group.

SJO2 Artemio Paquibot told dyTR that he and SJO1 Reynaldo Gumapac were the only ones left to man the jail because the two other jail guards were escorting prisoners to Tagbilaran that day.

He said he was at the kitchen when the six youths armed with M-16 rifles and .45 cal. pistols suddenly appeared. Paquibot described the suspects as between 17 to 18 years old and wore fatigues.

Two suspects pointed their rifles at him. One of them assured him that he would not be harmed because they were just fetching somebody from the jail.

The other two were aiming their guns at Gumapac while their two other companions went to free Salaum.

"Oh, it's you," Salaum reportedly responded when he heard his name being called by his two rescuers.

The gunmen asked the other inmates if they wanted to come along and seven out of 16 joined the jailbreak.

They were Jimmy Lacson, Ernesto Hinampas, Edgardo Mundin, Ponciano Estapia and Manuel Ampoloquio.

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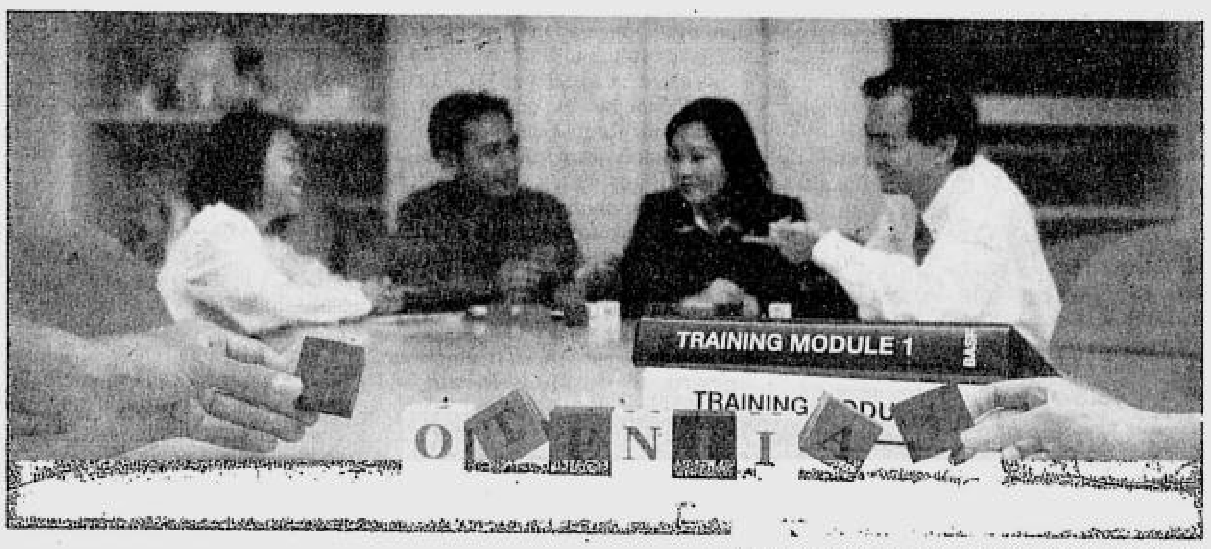

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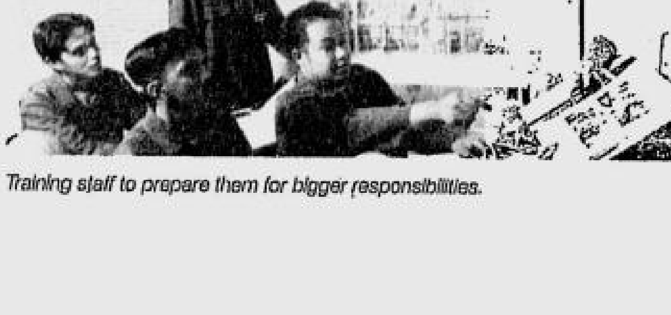

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SPECIAL EDUCATION FEATURE

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EXCELSIOR COLLEGE.
MANY AVENUES. ONE GOAL: YOUR DEGREE.
NEW YORK, USA

LAUNCH STRATEGIC ALLIANCE

Excelsior College, formerly known as Regents College of Albany, New York, USA and the International Academy of Management and Economics (I/AME, pronounced "I aim") launch their strategic alliance today at the Manila function room of Shangri-la Manila at Makati with a press conference starting 11:00 a.m.

Student counselors from the International School, Brent, British School, the Euro Campus composed of Ecole Francaise, German and Dutch schools; San Agustin, Ateneo, La Salle, Maria Montessori School, and other globally-oriented schools have been invited to attend the historic launch.

Education, Lifestyle, and Information Technology editors and writers from leading newspapers, magazines, and networks have confirmed attendance to the launch. A private production company will also conduct a special video coverage for the press con-launch's television broadcast.

Special guests are representatives from the British Council, Philippine-American Education Foundation, American Chamber of Commerce, the European Chamber of Commerce, Japanese Chamber of Commerce, Australia-New Zealand Chamber, Canadian Chamber, the American Association of the Philippines, Indian Chamber, the American Women Association, US and British embassy.

YOUNGEST COLLEGE PRESIDENT IN THE WORLD

Emmanuel Candido Soriente-Santos II
I/AME - PRESIDENT
CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER

At 31, the newly elected president-COO of the International Academy of Management and Economics (I/AME) – Emmanuel Candido Soriente-Santos II -- sets the record of being one of the youngest college presidents in the world.

The Board of Trustees of I/AME feels confident in electing him as the second president of I/AME because of his established track record and proper academic background. He succeeds the founding president, Emmanuel Tiu "Noli" Santos, who now serves as Chairman-CEO.

ECSS II (Doy to his classmates and friends) successfully negotiated the alliance with Excelsior College (Albany, New York) – America's first Virtual University. Excelsior College is accredited by the US Agency, the Commission on Higher Education of the Middle States Association of Schools and Colleges.

Simultaneously, he "oversaw" the computerization of the operations of the Registrar's office and the Treasury department of I/AME, even as he continuously conceptualizes and develops the "Virtual Global University" through the use of information communications technology.

ECSS II concurrently serves as president of International University Foundation (IUF) Montessori Learning Center in Banga, Km. 18, McArthur Highway, Meycauayan, Bulacan and Rancho II, Marikina City; the Foyer Restaurant, and the new I/AME Publishising Company at Noli Santos International Tower, Makati with National, Goodwill, Alemar's Litebooks, and Bookmart as outlets.

Doy Santos brings to bear on his presidency of I/AME his experience as president of a private development bank which he started holding at age 28 and assistant chief financial officer (CFO) of the I.S. Group consisting of the International Supermarket, Inc., Hotel Soriente, and International Café in Bocobo St. corner Flores at Ermita, Manila, and I.S. Pavilions, Bulacan's first modern commercial center, I.S.-Emmco, and IS moviehouses in Meycauayan, Bulacan.

EXCELSIOR-I/AME PRESENTS TO PARENTS AT EQUITABLE BANK CENTER - PASEO DE ROXAS

Excelsior College of Albany, New York and I/AME-Makati Alliance will hold a presentation for parents to announce their partnership to deliver an innovative educational program in the Philippines. The presentation will be held today at 4:00 pm at the Equitable Bank Center -- Paseo de Roxas, Makati.

The presentation will show parents how their sons and daughters can earn a highly respected management degree without leaving home and while saving precious dollars. Through the alliance, Excelsior College will offer their Bachelor of Science degree in General Business locally to I/AME management diploma graduates. The program offers students the opportunity to earn an American bachelor's degree and a quality business diploma to prepare them for corporate and academic careers in the US, Europe, Asia-Pacific and other parts of the world.

The International Academy of Management and Economics will offer their quality diploma as well as foundation courses for each required assessment. Excelsior College will offer a series of required examinations at a local, neutral third-party institution in the Philippines, possibly through the Philippine-American Education Foundation (PAEF). Students who successfully complete the I/AME diploma and the required proficiency examinations will earn the Excelsior College degree.

Commencement exercises may be held either in Makati or Albany, New York, USA at the option of the graduating class and their parents.

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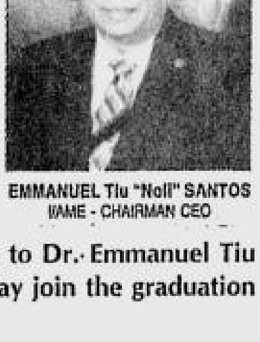

EMMANUEL Tiu "Noli" SANTOS
I/AME - CHAIRMAN CEO

Over 250 U.S. Colleges and universities have accepted for admission to their masteral degree programs the Bachelor's degree graduates of Excelsior College who decided to pursue further post-graduate education.

Under the I/AME-Excelsior College Alliance, degree conferred to students in the Philippines shall be the same as those conferred to students in the U.S.. This information was relayed by C. Wayne Williams, president of Excelsior College to Dr. Emmanuel Tiu "Noli" Santos, I/AME Chairman-CEO. Philippine graduates may join the graduation rites in Albany, New York.

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Cop says he sold shabu for Campos

(From page A1)

streets. Garganera said the policemen remitted an average of P500,000 every other day as proceeds from drug trafficking.

In his testimony before the Senate committee on public order and illegal drugs on Oct. 5, Garganera said Campos and Ong would buy shabu to make the triad believe that they were part of the illegal drug trade.

But instead of keeping the illegal drugs, Campos and his team would recycle them and sell them in the streets, according to the witness.

Asked why he decided to come out, Rosale said he could no longer bear the pain of being mentioned several times in the Senate committee hearings as the "first officer" in the Campos drug pipeline.

Rosale said the hearings had affected his family.

He said he feared for his life after he sensed that none of the drug lords he was dealing had been arrested by the Campos group.

Kidnapping

Besides recycling drugs, Garganera also confirmed Ong's testimony that Campos' group was also engaged in the abduction and killing of several suspected Chinese drug traffickers.

Garganera admitted that he hid and watched over Calvin Wong, one of eight Chinese drug lords kidnapped by the Campos group.

Ong earlier told the committee that six of the eight had been killed based on reports that she received. Garganera said he watched over Wong in a safe house in Better Living, Parañaque.

Five days later, he said, Campos and his men picked up Wong for transfer to a safe house in Cavite.

Ong said that Wong was brutally killed by Campos and his men and that his body was chopped up.

Asked by Barbers where Wong's remains were buried, Ong said she did not know.

In the case of Villaroman, Ong said she tried to tell him about the operations of Hong Kong triad members Wong Kam Chong, Ching Hiu Ming and Calvin Wong in a meeting at Heritage Hotel in Pasay City.

But Villaroman wanted her to draw up the operations of the triad in a secret place, Ong said. She said Villaroman brought her to Victoria Court, also in Pasay City. Villaroman denied it, saying it was Ong who invited him to the motel.

"That Villaroman is a bastard. He brought me to a motel," Ong said. She was quickly cautioned by Barbers against cursing people when narrating her story.

Ong also disclosed an attempt by Lacson to whitewash an investigation of three ranking police officers implicated by the Chinese government in the kidnapping of seven suspected Chinese traffickers in the Philippines.

Letter

She presented to the committee a letter from the Chinese Embassy in Manila implicating Chief Supt. Romeo Acop, Villaroman and Campos in the kidnapping of Wong Kam Chong, Chong Hiu Ming Zeng Jia Xuan, Hong Zen Qiao, Zeng Kang Fang, James Ong and Calvin Wong.

The letter was coursed through the Department of Foreign Affairs and addressed to Lacson, then chief of the Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force.

In the letter, Chinese Consul Liao Yetyet asked Lacson to investigate the involvement of the three officials mentioned in the letter.

To her surprise, Ong said, Lacson ordered an inquiry into the death of Wong but assigned Acop and Villaroman to lead the investigation.

She disclosed that it was Villaroman who ordered the killing of Wong.

According to Ong, Acop tried to silence her by asking her to "lie low" in the United States and gave her P50,000.

Ong said she did not go to the United States but merely hide from Acop as the money given her was not enough for her US trip.

She said she did not know what happened to the investigation because she was away.

Lacson rebuttal

Reacting to Ong's statement, Lacson said there was no smoking gun in yesterday's committee hearing or evidence directly linking him to drug trafficking.

"They are running out of outrageous tales to tell," Lacson said. "Where are the smoking guns they vowed to deliver once the hearings resumed."

According to Lacson, it was impossible for him to assign Villaroman to investigate the case when it was then Supt. Raul Bacalzo who was the chief of the PNP Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG).

"I never ordered the whitewash of any case," Lacson said. "I had gone after more senior, more corrupt and more undesirable officers in the PNP. What more if those involved were junior officers? My track record as a police officer will speak for itself," he added.

Lacson said he referred the Hong Kong reports to the CIDG for investigation.

Authentic

Barbers later told reporters that his committee had confirmed as authentic the Chinese Embassy letter that Ong had submitted.

He said the contents of the letter, including the names of the three PNP officials, may have been based by Beijing on the complaints of the families and relatives of the Chinese victims.

Ong also presented to the committee copies of the intelligence reports from the Hong Kong Royal Police to Lacson naming the Chinese drug traffickers operating in the Philippines and several letters of the victims' families seeking justice.

Ong stressed that Lacson did not do something about the intelligence reports.

"This is no joke," said Sen. Joker Arroyo. "These are serious documents."

Asked by Arroyo why she presented the documents only yesterday and not at the start of the Senate hearing, Ong said she wanted first to hear Campos deny all the allegations.

"I wanted Campos to deny the allegations because his group knew nothing that I was keeping documents," she said.

Asked where she got the letter, Ong said she stole it from Campos.

"Each document has a story to tell your honor," she added.

Spoon-feeding

For his part, Campos said what was contained in the letter from the embassy was based on the complaints of the victims' relatives who were "spoon-fed" by Ong.

Campos said that it was Ong who supplied the names of the PNP officers to the victims' relatives to implicate them.

But Ong cut him short, saying Campos and the other PNP officers involved were just covering up for Lacson.

"It is obvious that it is not Senator Lacson who is on trial here. It appears that we are the ones on trial," Campos lamented.

Campos asked the committee to stop the investigation because charges had been filed against him and several others with the court, the Office of the Ombudsman, the PNP, and the Department of Justice.

"I have been battered in the press. This is quite unfair," he said.

Sen. Aquilino Pimentel said it was Acop, not Lacson, who was put in hot water after the Rosale revelation.

"But the implication is since these people are under General Lacson, the implication is he is included. But that has to be established. You cannot establish guilt only by implication," Pimentel said.

"Up to this point, the evidence linking Lacson is tenuous at best," he said.

GMA home but not for long

(From page A1)

However, Cabrera said, she headed for the Shanghai airport directly after meeting with Chinese President Jiang Zemin.

No meeting was scheduled between the two leaders during the Apec summit in view of Ms Macapagal's forthcoming state visit. But Jiang sought the meeting, which took place at the Pearl Orient Tower.

Ms Macapagal described the meeting as "congenial and constructive."

"He thanked me that the hostage crisis involving the Chinese hostage Zhang Zhongyi has finally ended," she said upon her arrival in Manila. "I assured him that in the future we will try our best to ensure the safety of Chinese nationals working on important projects in the Philippines."

Compliments

During the meeting, the President was quoted as telling her Chinese counterpart: "May I congratulate you for the perfect hosting of this summit. Everybody is talking about what a grand host you are."

Jiang is said to have returned the compliment by saying that she spoke "marvelous English."

According to Cabrera, South Korean President Kim Dae-jung was more effusive in his compliments.

During his bilateral meeting with Ms Macapagal, Kim praised her for being a "beautiful" and "intelligent" leader.

Cabrera recalled Kim's compliments to illustrate his point that the President was "able to present herself as a real leader with intelligent ideas and proposals" among her counterparts in the region.

"One of the things I remember mentioned by President Kim Dae-jung (was her being) beautiful and, not only that, intelligent and a leader who stood for (her country)," Cabrera said.

Asked what the Ms Macapagal's reaction was, Cabrera said "probably she was flattered."

"Of course, she thanked the (South Korean) president," he added.

As expected, each of the two leaders invited the other to visit their respective countries. But no dates were set.

In response to a reporter's question, Cabrera said First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo was not present at the bilateral meeting.

Comings and goings

Ms Macapagal's state visit to China will be preceded by an official visit to the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, where she will be the keynote speaker at the World Economic Forum.

She will return to the Philippines for All Saints Day but will leave again for Brunei for the Asean summit on Nov. 5-6.

She will leave the following week for a state visit to Indonesia, to return the state visit of President Megawati Sukarnoputri last month.

On Nov. 18, Ms Macapagal will fly off again for a three-day official visit to the United States.

After that she will go to Mexico to attend the Conference of Christian Democrats.

Defending her series of foreign trips, Ms Macapagal said it was important for her to reach out to other nations because the escalating US-led war against terrorism was negatively affecting the global economy.

"All these trips are tied together by the common thread of our national interest for I consider it an urgent responsibility to consolidate our foreign relations during this period of conflict, crisis and uncertainty," she said.

In her state visit to China, the President and Jiang will sign four agreements, including one allowing the transfer of convicted Chinese and Filipino nationals to their own countries to serve and complete their sentences there.

She is expected to meet Premier Zhu Rongji and Chairman Li Peng of the National People's Congress.

She will also address a business forum and conduct a dialogue with students and faculty of the Tsinghua University.

Satisfaction

In Shanghai, Ms Macapagal said Sunday that she was satisfied with the Philippines' contributions to efforts to get Apec member-countries to strongly support the coalition against terrorism.

She told reporters in an ambush interview that the Philippines, with its own problems of terrorism, had been able to show up close the destructive effects of terrorism in Asia.

"It's now up to Apec senior ministers to flesh that out at the next ministers' meeting," she said.

Ms Macapagal also said Foreign Undersecretary Rosario Manalo had been designated to represent the country at the Apec. Cabrera said the Apec summit gave the President a chance to put an "Asian face" on terrorism.

The Philippine government has been fighting the Abu Sayyaf in Basilan and Sulu. The bandit group is believed to one of the organizations linked to prime terrorist suspect Osama bin Laden.

In her speech before the Apec leaders, Ms Macapagal called for the implementation of an Asian formula to address the problem of terrorism.

Calling the plan the "Shanghai response," the President said the move would involve ensuring the "economic security" of Apec members, with each working to battle terrorism within its respective borders.

She said Apec countries could "strengthen the international coalition against terrorism in the regional context" by effecting "close pluri-lateral exchanges of information and intelligence" against terrorists.

Ms Macapagal was one of four Apec leaders assigned to speak on terrorism during the Apec leaders' luncheon. The others were US President George W. Bush, Russian President Vladimir Putin and Singapore Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong. ***With a report from Armand N. Nocum***

Chinoy financed . . .

(From page A1)

ground."

Barbers also disclosed that the bulk of the 498 kilos of shabu seized from an ambulance escorted by Mitra was bound for Europe and the United States.

The senator said the country had long become a transshipment point for shabu and other illegal drugs.

"I have received vital and reliable information that a huge part of the shabu seized from Panukulan Mayor (Ronnie) Mitra was headed for Europe and the United States," the senator said.

Barbers and Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel yesterday filed a resolution seeking a probe of the shabu seized in Quezon.

Barbers said a probe should be conducted "because the Senate is currently looking into threats of narco-politics as alleged by no less than the chief of the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines)."

The probe will "look into the involvement of appointive and elective public officials, as well as prominent businessmen" in the "handling, possession, trafficking and use" of the seized shabu, according to Barbers.

Desierto also suspended Mitra's driver Javier Morilla and the mayor's security aide Ruel Dequilla.

The Ombudsman said Mitra and two of his staff were found to have committed grave misconduct after they were caught "in flagrante delicto" (in the act of) carrying and transporting the shabu.

The Ombudsman did not suspend the fourth suspected drug trafficker, Chinese national Willy Yang, as he was not a government official or employee.

Desierto said Mitra, Morilla and Dequilla were liable for abuse of authority because they used a government vehicle—a municipal ambulance—in transporting the biggest drug haul intercepted by government agents under the Macapagal administration.

Aside from the ambulance, a Starex van with the commemorative plate "Mayor" was used in transporting the half a ton of shabu.

It was the Ombudsman Administrative Adjudication Bureau (AAB) that recommended the suspension of Mitra, his driver and his aide after it found merit in the administrative complaint filed by Interior Secretary Joey Lina on Wednesday.

"After a careful evaluation of the complaint, the AAB found strong evidence of guilt on the part of Mayor Mitra, Murilla and Dequilla," he said.

Desierto also ordered yesterday formal administrative proceedings against the three.

"While suspended, the three will be on trial here in the Office of the Ombudsman," he said.

If found guilty, the three will be dismissed from government service and stripped of their retirement pay and other benefits.

As for the criminal aspect of the case, Desierto said the Department of Justice would prosecute the suspects.

Last week, State Prosecutor Albert Fonacier filed drug trafficking charges against Mitra, Dequilla, Morilla and Yang based on a criminal complaint filed by the Philippine National Police.

Fonacier found the existence of a prima facie case for transporting regulated drugs. He then ruled that the four be indicted before the Regional Trial Court of Infanta, Quezon, which has jurisdiction over the municipality of Real, where the police and the National Bureau of Investigation arrested the suspects.

Italian priest now under MILF . . .

(From page A1)

A military official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said a special anti-terrorist team sent to reinforce Atutubo's task force had encircled the area where Pierantoni was being held.

The official said the anti-terrorist team was formed after the Sept. 11 attacks in the United States.

He said the team had modern weapons, communications equipment, vehicles, speedboats and aircraft provided by the US government.

Atutubo would neither confirm nor deny the report. But he said his men were ready to move in if given the go-ahead by higher-ups.

It was in the same area where Moro kidnappers turned over Chinese engineer Zhang Zhongyi to MILF emissaries on Friday.

The military earlier said the kidnappers of Pierantoni, Zhang and three other Chinese engineers had links with the MILF.

But the rebel group, which is holding peace talks with the government, has disowned the gang.

The MILF said the Pentagon gang, composed mostly of rogue MILF guerrillas, should be treated as criminals.

The principal suspects in Pierantoni's kidnapping are Faizal Marohombsar and Norham Amil alias Ramsey, the alleged leaders of the gang.

The National Bureau of Investigation yesterday filed a kidnapping complaint against Amil and seven others. The Zamboanga del Sur police also filed a separate complaint against Amil, Marohombsar and several others.

MILF denial

For his part, Kabalu scoffed at the military report that Acas was an MILF brigade commander and that he was holding Pierantoni.

"He (Acas) is just a mere commander. He belongs to the religious sector. Acas is like a chaplain," he said.

Kabalu said it was impossible for Acas to be in Lanao del Sur.

"Acas is a Maguindanaoan, not a Maranao. He could not be in Lanao. He is in Camp Abubakar, which is in Maguindanao," he said.

Kabalu on Sunday offered his group's help in negotiating the priest's release.

He said the 12,500-member MILF was ready to provide military muscle to go after the kidnappers, "in the proper time, and if asked" by the government.

Officials said negotiations for the release of Pierantoni had begun, with the rebels asking an unspecified ransom.

But Lt. Gen. Roy Cimatu, head of the Southern Command, said the talks were only meant to persuade the gunmen to free Pierantoni unconditionally "for humanitarian reasons."

"Military pressure will continue whether there will be negotiations or not," he said.

Jesus Dureza, the chief government negotiator dealing with the MILF, yesterday confirmed that he had asked the rebel group's help in securing the release of Pierantoni.

Dureza said he forwarded the "informal request" to his MILF counterpart, Al-Haj Murad, last week when they met for a round of talks in Kuala Lumpur.

"This kind of relationship is helping us both in partnership in our peacekeeping there in Mindanao," Dureza said.

"If there are other groups trying to disrupt the peace with kidnapping for ransom or maybe other acts of violence, definitely this will have an impact on our peacekeeping there. So both of us will really have to help each other." ***With reports from Hernan P. dela Cruz and Julie Alipala-Inot, PDI Mindanao Bureau; Dona Pazzibugan in Manila; and AFP***

1,433 out of 7,871 . . .

(From page A1)

Iloilo, Legazpi, General Santos and Tacloban this October. The results were released several hours after the last day of examination.

The new accountants who garnered the 20 highest places are the following: 1. Raymundo Salgado Andallon Jr., 91.29; 2. Jestyn Tracy Marie Belmonte Filart, 90.43; 3. Lloyd Apusaga Superficial, 90.29; 4. Jerome Go Ubalde, Charisse Rossielin Young Cruz, 90.14; 5. Katherine Gubat Roderno, 89.71; 6. Ana Stacy Bardelosa Navarrete, 89.57; 7. Tarly Calunsag Talatala, 89.43; 8. Sofronia Repollo Perez, Jorelle Ogame Tuvillo, 89.29; 9. Abigail Eusebio Reyes, 89.14; 10. Amor Mia Tigol Coyme, 88.86; 11. Kristopper Jose Cruz, 88.71; 12. Doji Ferrera Luberas, 88.57; 13. Erwin Ogabar Cabatingan, Margaret Acayen Porteza, Alexius Pardo Tang, 88.43; 14. Nessellyn Go Sta Rita, Val Eric Sio Pama, Pamela Ann Pahilanga Escuadro, Lorver Emerald Abadilla Lentejas, Elaine Marie Palomo Fajardo, 88.29; 15. Cristina Noblejas Fadero, Maureen Umale Siapno, Maryann Liporada Victoria, 88.14; 16. John William Sierra Olaes, Mark Anthony Ngo Ong, Ernesto Cabanes Maceda Jr., 87.86; 17. Irene Copeng Lim, Tyrone Bob Caloncagon Velasquez, 87.71; 18. Lenjanessa Calalo Cusi, 87.57; 19. Kristine Joy Rimando Nario, 87.14; 20. Lovely Echarri Lim, 87.

The oath taking ceremony of the successful examinees will be held on Nov. 22 at the Philippine International Convention Center in Manila.

US jets pound Taliban frontlines

(From page A1)

rorism," said Haji Gul Rahman, a deputy brigade commander at Bagram north of Kabul.

In the capital, the Taliban's official Bakhtar news agency reported heavy bombing Monday at positions 50 km to the north.

Bombing in the same area Sunday marked the most substantial US strikes to date against Taliban positions defending Kabul from the Northern Alliance forces, stalled for years about 20-40 km north of the city.

Bedraggled opposition fighters watched, excited, as smoke and dust billowed up.

"We are hoping this will be a big help for the future of our forces," said Waisuddin Salik, an opposition spokesperson. However, there was no report of any opposition advances.

Rahman said there were casualties among the Taliban, but he couldn't say how many.

He also said that Taliban forces had been leaving the Kabul area and converging on the frontline in the belief they would be safer in an area which until now had not seen American bombing.

Best thing

In Washington, US Secretary of State Colin Powell said the United States was interested in seeing rebel forces take Mazar-e-Sharif, but was still continuing discussion about whether a rebel march into Kabul would be "the best thing."

The United States and Britain have been reluctant to help the alliance seize Kabul until a broad-based government is in place to replace the Taliban.

Opposition forces, made up mostly of minority ethnic Tajiks and Uzbeks, face widespread doubts about their ability to govern.

Chaos and infighting marked their four years in power in the 1990s. The fighting between rival groups now part of the alliance destroyed large sections of Kabul and killed an estimated 50,000 people, most of them civilians.

Since the US-led air campaign began, US attacks against Taliban frontline positions previously have been concentrated farther to the north—outside Mazar-e-Sharif.

Taking control of the city would let the opposition control key supply lines for arms from neighboring Tajikistan and Uzbekistan.

Devastating

US jets mounted fierce attacks throughout the night, devastating two heavily fortified bases that had been guarding the southern approach, said Khan, the opposition commander.

The US attacks damaged tanks and artillery sites and destroyed an ammunition depot, Khan said.

"We are happy because these two bases were major fortifications. And now we are optimistic about launching a successful attack," the commander said.

Opposition and Taliban forces have been stuck in a seesaw battle there for days. As in the front near Kabul, there were no claims Monday of significant opposition advances.

Monday saw a break in US attacks on Taliban sites in the Afghan capital. Skies over Kabul were quiet through the night and into the day.

The lull followed a US air raid Sunday that shattered two homes in the city's northern Khair Khana district—killing at least 13 civilians, including three women and four boys aged 8 to 13.

Denial

Also yesterday, the Taliban denied a report that the US-led air strikes had claimed the life of Omar's 10-year-old son. The British Broadcasting Corp. reported the death Sunday, citing what it said was a claim by an Afghan doctor.

"It is completely false. His son is fine. Mullah Omar is fine, Osama is fine, his bases are fine. Our morale is high," Taliban official Abdul Hanan Himat said.

Himat also said the bombing raids had destroyed only 10 percent of the Taliban's military capability.

President Bush ordered the attacks after the Taliban repeatedly refused demands to surrender Osama bin Laden, chief suspect in last month's terror attacks in the United States, and his lieutenants.

Refugee crisis

Meanwhile, a refugee crisis was building at Pakistan's sealed border with Afghanistan. An Afghan man died of wounds suffered when border guards opened fire to quell up to 15,000 trapped Afghan civilians pushing and pleading for entry.

Afghanistan's neighbors have closed its borders to Afghan civilians fleeing the US-led attacks.

Up to 15,000 Afghans are camped out in a no man's land between the Afghan and Pakistan borders at the Chaman crossing.

Pakistan officials said both Pakistani and Taliban border guards opened fire Sunday to quell a stone-throwing protest by hundreds of the refugees demanding entry.

Doctors at Chaman said Monday that a 23-year-old Afghan died of a bullet wound. Another bullet injured a 13-year-old boy.

Pakistan border guards insisted they had fired into the air only. *AP*

Mike no Dennis Thatcher, says Malacañang

(From page A1)

cations franchise bill and the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office funds.

Tiglao was reacting to suggestions that Arroyo follow the sterling example of Dennis Thatcher, who was never linked to any scandal.

Dennis Thatcher, a successful businessman, faded from public view and shunned even media interviews during his wife's long service as Britain's "Iron Lady."

"In our political culture, the people expect help from the First Spouse: There are no people who are extremely poor in the (United Kingdom), and the problem of poverty there is not that severe," Tiglao said in Taglish.

He added: "The demands of Philippine culture is that the First Spouse cannot just be like furniture inside the house. People regard it as a waste, and that's the problem."

He said this would explain the involvement of former first ladies Amelita Ramos and Luisa Ejercito in civic-oriented activities ranging from environmental projects and medical missions to livelihood generation.

But Tiglao made an exception with Imelda Marcos, who, apart from being first lady of strongman Ferdinand Marcos, took on high government positions and wielded immense power.

Asked whether Imelda Marcos' role fit into the cultural expectation of Filipinos, Tiglao said: "That was too muchr."

High profile

Tiglao, however, said it was up to Arroyo to determine how he should play his role as the President's spouse.

Arroyo has maintained a high profile with his involvement in a number of activities, including television and radio shows.

Malacañang has staunchly defended him from allegations of questionable behavior, but this has not prevented his being summoned to testify at Senate inquiries.

On the matter of the PCSO funds, the Palace yesterday released a brief statement quoting Arroyo as saying that he felt "vindicated."

He was referring to the earlier statement of opposition Sen. Aquilino Pimentel Jr. that Robert Rivero, his accuser, failed to present evidence at Friday's Senate hearing to show that Arroyo had misused P250 million in PCSO funds to boost the election campaign of four of the administration's senatorial candidates.

"I am thankful to Senator Pimentel. At least, the truth is coming out," Arroyo said.

The First Gentleman did not attend that hearing because he accompanied the President to Shanghai, where she attended the leaders' summit of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation.

'Ninong'

Saturday night in the First Couple's suite at the Marriot Hotel in Shanghai, Arroyo told reporters over cocktails that *ninong* (godfather) was a word that he did not want to hear.

"I'm allergic to that word. He keeps insisting that I'm his *ninong* when I am not," Arroyo said of Rivero, a former PCSO media consultant at whose wedding his wife, then vice president, stood as godmother.

"He's dropping my name. He's not in my inner circle," Arroyo said, adding that had his accuser been that close to him, Rivero would have gotten a better position than a media consultant.

The First Gentleman appeared to have been greatly affected by Rivero's accusation.

But the next day, the First Couple's 33rd wedding anniversary, Arroyo was in high spirits after learning of what Pimentel had said regarding Rivero's evidence.

"This is a perfect wedding anniversary gift for me," he declared.

Asked about Rivero's credibility, the First Gentleman said: "How can that guy be credible? You should judge him for himself. I don't want to say anything anymore.

With a report from Armand N. Nocum

A kiss and a hug in Shanghai for the First Couple's 33rd

By Armand N. Nocum

SHANGHAI (via PLDT)—President Macapagal-Arroyo's said Sunday that her prayer on the 33rd anniversary of her marriage to First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo was that it would "last forever."

At a gathering of Filipino executives and workers here, the President admitted that they were celebrating their special day. Upon the prodding of the crowd, Arroyo gave his wife a kiss and a hug.

A Mass was held at the Marriot Hotel prior to the program attended by the First Couple and Philippine government officials.

Arroyo said he had asked someone to buy the President a red Chinese dress for the occasion. But he said they actually had no time to celebrate the day as a couple because the President was busy with official functions at the 9th leaders' summit of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation.

"There was no private time. She was very busy. She's very focused in her job," he said.

He added, however, that he intended to make up for lost time when they returned home.

Arroyo said he and the President got married when he was 22 and she, 21.

They first had a civil wedding on Oct. 2 and took their church vows on Oct. 21.

"I told her I'm hers. We will never separate. I hope she can fulfill all her ambitions," Arroyo said of his wishes for his wife.

He said he was also praying that the Philippines would finally achieve unity.

Gloria hails Metrobank . . .

(From page A1)

"This city (Shanghai) and this country are growing so fast, we don't want to be left behind," Ty told the INQUIRER.

He said that although the branch was only two months in operation, it was "already making money."

In her speech at the Marriot Hotel here, the President said she was happy to see the fruit of her initiative.

Ms Macapagal said she had helped forge a reciprocity agreement with China when she was the Vice President two years ago.

The agreement allows Filipino businessmen to set up banks in China and their Chinese counterparts to do the same in the Philippines.

Ms Macapagal unveiled a commemorative plaque to be placed at the bank branch during inaugural cocktails Sunday evening.

Bank officials headed by Ty, vice chair Placido Mapa and president Antonio Abacan assisted the President during the unveiling.

For the ceremonies, Metrobank flew in about 120 Filipino associates and trustees, including Jesus Estanislao, Cielito Habito, Mandaluyong Mayor Benhur Abalos, Rep. Harry Angpin and the INQUIRER's Alex and Marixi Prieto.

The Metrobank branch is located at 1203 Marine Tower, Pudong Ave., Shanghai.

During the rites, Metrobank donated $100,000 to the Department of Foreign Affairs to set up a consulate in Shanghai. It also donated another $100,000 to a Chinese charity.

The President, in a later meeting with the Filipino community in Shanghai, said that with the money, the consulate would soon be a reality.

She admitted that finding the money for a consulate had been a problem.

"It is easier to find P5 million in the DFA budget now that there is the P5 million from Metrobank," she said.

The Filipino community in this city led by Sofitel Shanghai financial controller Berlin Canoy had been clamoring for a consular office here.

Macapagal appoints Carpio . . .

(From page A1)

in 1980 had to change its name. Formerly known as Carpio, Villaraza and Cruz, the firm had to do without Avelino J. Cruz when he joined the Macapagal administration as chief presidential legal counsel and had to resign.

Another of the firm's senior member, Simeon V. Marcelo, also resigned when he was appointed solicitor general by the President.

"Atty. Carpio's track record as a legal luminary is well established. He's also an academic. He's a professional lecturer at the University of the Philippines' College of Law," said presidential spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao who announced the appointment.

"He has insight into the politics and the economy on which the Supreme Court will be ruling based on his experience as chief presidential legal counsel," Tiglao also said.

Tiglao was referring to Carpio's term as chief presidential legal counsel for then President Fidel Ramos from June 30, 1992 to February 1996.

Carpio topped the list of five nominees submitted to the President by the Judicial Bar Council.

The four others were Presidential Chief of Staff Renato Corona, Court of Appeals Justice Cancio Garcia, Sandiganbayan Presiding Justice Francis Garchitorena and private law practitioner Rogelio Vinluan of the Accra law office.

"The President based her decision on recommendations of the Judicial Bar Council and the Supreme Court," Tiglao said. "Judging by the Judicial Bar Council, Atty. Carpio got 10 of the 13 votes."

The Palace was scheduled to send Carpio's appointment papers to the high court yesterday afternoon.

Under the law, the JBC can recommend up to five Supreme Court nominees to the President.

Tiglao denied suggestions that Carpio's former law partner, Avelino Cruz, influenced the President's choice of Carpio.

"The President has her own sources of information," Tiglao said.

Corona, according to Tiglao, will remain the President's chief of staff and may again be recommended by the JBC as a nominee when another Supreme Court seat becomes vacant.

Corona got "a bit less votes" than Carpio, Tiglao also said.

Valedictorian, cum laude

Carpio graduated cum laude and valedictorian from the UP College of Law in 1975, and in the same year placed sixth with a rating of 85.70 percent in the bar examinations.

While a law student, he was managing editor of the Collegian.

After law school, he went into private practice, first at the Villafuerte, Zamora and Associates; later at the Zamora, Zamora, Reverante, Trinidad, Carpio and Associates.

His areas of practice included commercial law, banking and finance, investments and trade, conveyancing, taxation and intellectual property.

In 1980, Carpio founded his own law firm, the Carpio, Villaraza, Cruz and Associates, whose partnership lasted until 1992.

Between 1983 to 1992 before he was appointed Ramos' legal counsel, Carpio was also a professorial lecturer at the UP College of Law.

After his stint in the Ramos administration, Carpio served as executive director of the Asean Business Law Program of the UP College of Law in 1997.

From 1997 up to his appointment yesterday, Carpio went back to private law practice with his firm, the Carpio and Villaraza Law Offices.

Carpio is a true-blooded Atenean, having completed his elementary and secondary schooling at the Ateneo de Davao and his AB Economics degree at the Ateneo de Manila University.

Born in Davao City, he's married with two children.

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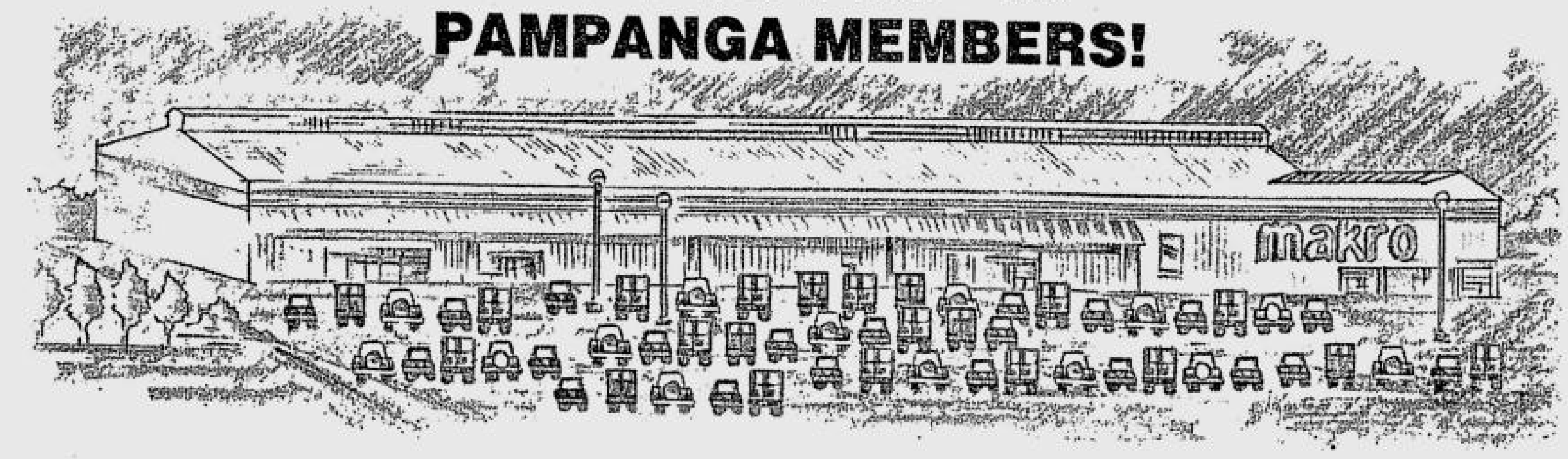

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Diamondbacks in World Series

'Big Unit' powers Arizona past Atlanta

ATLANTA — The Arizona Diamondbacks reached the World Series in only their fourth year of existence Sunday when Randy Johnson pitched them past the Atlanta Braves 3-2 in Game 5 of the National League Championship Series.

The Diamondbacks have reached the Series faster than any expansion team in history.

Johnson, better known to fans as The Big Unit, had lost a record seven consecutive postseason decisions coming into the series, but erased all doubt about his ability to win when it counted. Sweating and grimacing, he earned his second victory in six days, having won Game 1 2-0.

The Big Unit made his 118th and final pitch his best, striking out Brian Jordan with the bases loaded to preserve a one-run lead in the seventh inning. Fellow Arizona pitcher Curt Schilling applauded from the dugout, and patted Johnson when he reached the top step.

Now, the 38-year-old ace with three Cy Young pitching awards gets to step onto baseball's biggest stage. He will be joined by 10 other thirtysomethings _ Mark Grace, Luis Gonzalez and Jay Bell among them_ making their first Series appearance.

Among the Arizona players going to the World Series for the first time is Mike Morgan, 42. He's played for a record 12 teams in the majors.

Game 1 is Saturday night at Arizona's Bank One Ballpark, against either the New York Yankees or Seattle Mariners. And Arizona has ominous news for anyone visiting the desert _ be it Schilling or Johnson, both aces will be fully rested for the opener.

Erubiel Durazo, pinch-hitting for the injured Grace, hit a tiebreaking, two-run homer in the fifth inning off Atlanta's Tom Glavine. Danny Bautista, starting on a hunch by manager Bob Brenly, had an RBI single.

South Korean pitcher Byung-Hyun Kim relieved Johnson and pitched two hitless innings, making Brenly the first manager to lead a team to the World Series in his first year since Kansas City's Jim Frey in 1980.

Putting Bautista in center field for veteran Steve Finley was among his many moves that paid off.

Because of the lack of postseason success of our veterans, I think they were willing to try whatever, Brenly said before Game 5.

Craig Counsell is the only player on Arizona's roster with a World Series ring, having helped Florida beat Cleveland in Game 7 in 1997. And while the Diamondbacks are a relatively new franchise, they are loaded with longtime players who began talking in spring training about possibly going to the Series.

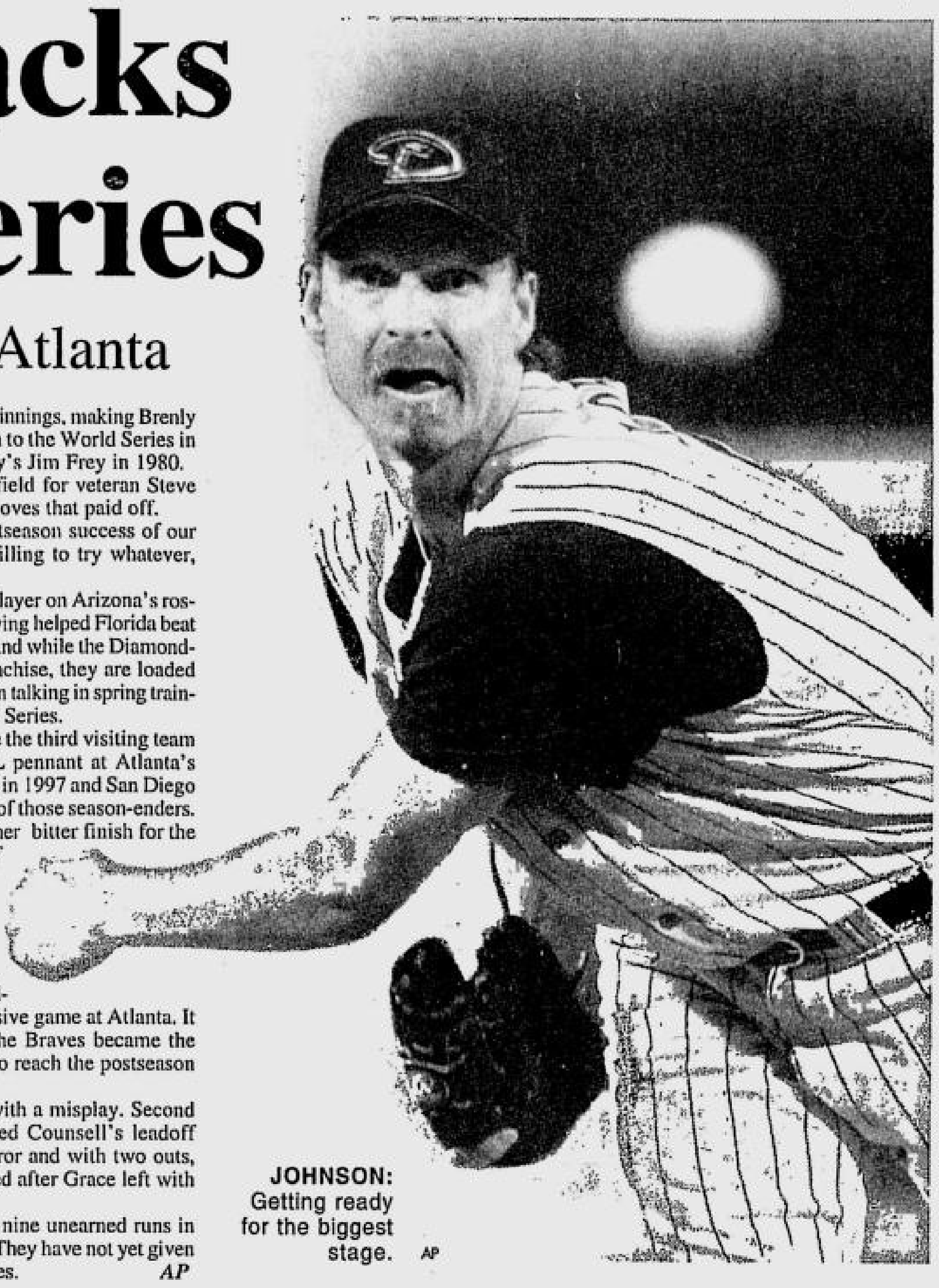
The Diamondbacks became the third visiting team in five years to clinch the NL pennant at Atlanta's Turner Field, following Florida in 1997 and San Diego in 1998. Glavine also lost both of those season-enders.

The defeat represented another bitter finish for the Braves. Despite a record run of 10 consecutive division titles, they have just one championship to show for it.

A startlingly small crowd of 35,652, about 15,000 short of a sellout, saw the Diamondbacks win their third in successive game at Atlanta. It was no surprise _ this year, the Braves became the only team in baseball history to reach the postseason with a losing record at home.

Again, Atlanta hurt itself with a misplay. Second baseman Marcus Giles botched Counsell's leadoff grounder in the fifth for an error and with two outs, Durazo homered. Durazo batted after Grace left with a tight right hamstring.

The Diamondbacks scored nine unearned runs in the five games against Atlanta. They have not yet given up an unearned run in this series. *AP*



JOHNSON: Getting ready for the biggest stage. AP

1 to go for NY Yankees

NEW YORK —In one of the grittiest, yet wildest, postseason games ever, Alfonso Soriano hit a two-run homer in the bottom of the ninth inning Sunday to give the New York Yankees a 3-1 victory over Seattle and move them within a win from their fourth consecutive trip to the World Series.

SORIANO

After Seattle's Bret Boone broke up a scoreless game with an eighth-inning homer off Ramiro Mendoza, Bernie Williams answered back with a drive off Seattle's Arthur Rhodes in the bottom half.

Soriano, the rookie second baseman who broke into a lineup of veterans, homered off Japanese pitcher Kazuhiro Sasaki with one out in the ninth inning, giving the Yankees a 3-1 lead over the Mariners in the best-of-seven American League Championship Series.

I think we're just blessed, Williams said. It has taken a lot of work. It has a lot to do with the attitude of this club.

Roger Clemens and Paul Abbott reunited in a rematch of last year's fourth game. Clemens allowed one hit, just like he did last year, but Abbott pitched hitless ball.

Because of their wildness, both were pulled after the fifth inning. Abbott walked eight, one short of the ALCS record.

It then came down to a battle of the bullpens and the Yankees prevailed.

Soriano's home run, which sailed to right-center field over Mike Cameron's attempt at a leaping catch, was the fourth game-winning home run for the Yankees in ALCS play.

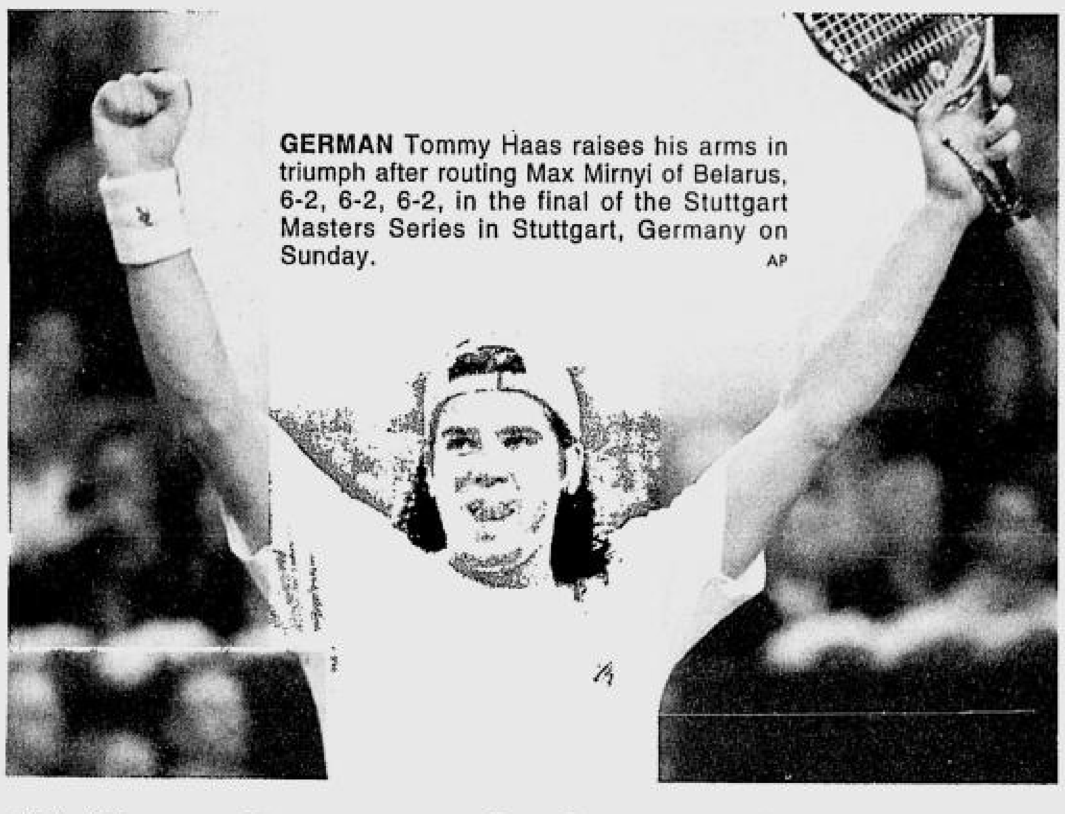
Chris Chambliss hit a series-winner against Kansas City in 1996, and Williams had game-ending homers against Baltimore in 1996 and Boston in 1999.

There were just two hits in the game before the drive over Death Valley by Boone, who had five RBIs Saturday in Seattle's 14-3 rout. Left fielder Chuck Knoblauch kept going back but the ball, caught in a stiff wind, kept on going.

He hits that home run in that situation, the job our bullpen has done all year, you can put it in the bank, Abbott thought to himself.

Williams sliced an opposite-field drive just foul down the right field line, then popped a home run over the right-field wall, with outfielder Ichiro Suzuki smacking into the fence as he ran out of room. *AP*

Davenport routs Dokic, gains



GERMAN Tommy Haas raises his arms in triumph after routing Max Mirnyi of Belarus, 6-2, 6-2, 6-2, in the final of the Stuttgart Masters Series in Stuttgart, Germany on Sunday. AP

ZURICH, Switzerland— After her win at the Swisscom Challenge, American Lindsay Davenport vaults from fourth to second in the race for the WTA Tour's year-end Championships in Munich later this month. And she might not stop there.

DAVENPORT

Solid and steadfast, the 25-year-old American defeated fourth-seeded Jelena Dokic 6-3, 6-1 in just 63 minutes Sunday in the final of the Swisscom Challenge, picking up her second singles title in as many weeks.

Combined with a win at the Porsche Grand Prix the previous week, the victory thrust her past injured Martina Hingis and home-bound Venus Williams in the points race for the championships in Munich, which run from Oct. 30 to Nov. 4.

Capriati leads the race standings with 4,772 points after her semifinal finish in Zurich, where she was eliminated by Davenport. Davenport's title in Zurich lifted her to second with 4,173 points, while Venus Williams, who has not played since winning the U.S. Open in early September, dropped to third with 4,128. Martina Hingis, who pulled out of the Porsche Grand Prix when she tore ligaments in her right ankle in her semifinal against Davenport, slipped to fourth with 3,946.

Despite six titles this season, Davenport's season has been mostly low-profile, the American having won no Grand Slams, hovering among the top five in the WTA Tour rankings but never recapturing the No. 1 spot she occupied the previous year.

Recent weeks, however, have seen her pick up steam, collecting four titles in just two weeks - two singles and a pair of doubles - both at Tier One events, ranked just below the Grand Slams.

"It's been a perfect two weeks," Davenport said. "Obviously I hope to do extremely well in Munich. But it would still be nice to end the season with these two titles as well."

A win in Munich combined with one in Linz next week - which newly-crowned world No. 1 Jennifer Capriati has chosen to skip and Venus Williams will miss because of a wrist injury - could possibly catapult Davenport into first place.

But without a Grand Slam title this year, the American doesn't feel ending the season as the world's top-ranked player would be right.

Pete ends season

STUTTGART, Germany—Former No. 1 Pete Sampras, who has not won a tournament in 15 months, has pulled out of next week's event in Basel, Switzerland and apparently has ended his season.

The ATP Tour confirmed Sunday that Sampras would not be taking a wild card in Basel.

After losing in the quarterfinals of the Stuttgart Masters Series, Sampras said he would return to the United States if he decided not to play in Basel. *AP*

'Musclemania' set Oct. 28

BODYBUILDING takes centerstage when The 2001 Musclemania Asia-Musclemania Philippines-Ironpinoy.com Challenge is held Oct. 28 at the Teatro Aguinaldo in Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City.

"With the high level of interest among Filipino bodybuilders, the Philippines will be one of the most popular destinations for Musclemania," said Louis Zwick, Musclemania World Tour producer.

The Musclemania World Tour began over 10 years ago as a natural and independent extravaganza bringing together bodybuilders from all federations around the world in a special made-for-television competitions.

These events have been held on virtually every continent in the world, in countries that include Hong Kong, Singapore, Australia, Indonesia, Japan, Canada, Germany, Italy, Finland, Hungary, and the USA. Through the efforts of Musclemania and Ironpinoy.com, the first Filipino website fully dedicated to the sport of bodybuilding, powerlifting and fitness, The Musclemania World Tour will be held in the Philippines for the first time.

With exclusive television coverage from Star Sports Asia, ESPN International, Eurosport, and TSN Canada among others, plus extensive coverage in over 40 magazines and fitness publications worldwide, The Musclemania World Tour has brought production standards to higher levels, employing Hollywood stage designers and concert lighting experts. Guest posers that night will include Musclemania superstars and fitness universe pageant champions.

"We look forward to making Musclemania Philippines the gateway for many of the country's best bodybuilders to competing on the world stage," said Bong Pico, general manager of Ironpinoy.com.

Pico added that the prizes and awards to be given away for the competitions will be among the most generous ever offered to Filipino bodybuilders. Some of the athletes will win the opportunity to compete at Musclemania World Championships on Dec. 1 in Las Vegas, USA.

Major sponsors are Base6ix Nutrition, Pinnacle Health Pointe (Official Gym), Ironworks Gym, and Chris Sporting Goods. Media sponsors are pinoymail.com and getasia.com.ph, the biggest on line lifestyle magazine in the country.

For more details, call 531-3973 or 09163078784, or visit the website at www.ironpinoy.com for more details. Tickets are also sold at Chris Sports Plaza, Megamall. Prices are P1,000, P600 and P400.

Butuan netter shines

CEBU—Annafil Salomon of Butuan City upset favored Jin Querubin 3-6, 7-5, 6-2 and Lovely Soquino 8-3 to barge into the finals of the girls 14-under division in the Adidas Tennis Challenge 2001 at the Sancase Tennis Club here.

Salomon tangles with another promising regional lass from Dumaguete City, Melody Barraquias, who edged club netter Snowy Lachica 6-1, 6-4 in the Adidas netfest organized by the CTW and supported by Milo and Sports Kids.

South Mindanao junior players Pantua, Elsanto Santos, and Ed Angelo Diez also made their mark with big victories over separate rivals in their respective categories.

Pantua of South Cotabato tripped Renan Mirto 6-2, 7-6 to arrange a championship match with Santos of Davao City in the Unisex 10-under class while Diez of Digos, Davao del Sur nipped John Villa 6-4, 6-4 to meet Flynn Golosinda in the Boys 14-under event.

Forest Hills stuns WW

BY JONG ARCANO

A VICTORY mission for a team member that met a sudden death ended in a bizarre yet joyous manner for Forest Hills as it shocked a favored Wack Wack squad in sudden death over the weekend.

Forest Hills got a big break when the match was on the line in regulation play and Bobby Ysip and Florene delos Santos played the executioners' role by edging Marlon Dizon and Jack Duavit in a pressure-packed playoff .

Duavit suffered the ignominy of losing the match for Wack Wack as the young Rizal congressman needed five shots to get on the green for a double-bogey that put to naught a scrambling par by the more seasoned Dizon.

Santos made regulation par and Ysip gambled on using his putter to ensure a bogey that sealed Wack Wack's doom.

The Forest Hills squad erupted into a wild celebration at greenside as soon as Wack Wack captain Gerard Cantada conceded the match, chanting Alfie! Alfie! as they wrapped up a post-season campaign that was marred by the death of team spearhead Alfie Almario last month.

"I think everything was made by special design. There were so many breaks that went our way and I would like to believe that Alfie helped us make it happen," said Vic Guzman of Forest Hills.

Forest Hills lost 3-1 in their visit to Wack Wack last Saturday, giving their opponents the chance to defend the crown by just a draw. Leading 2-1 after three matches, all seemed lost for the Forest cause when the high-low pairing teed off on 18th with the Wack Wack pair of Kit Lopez and Elphege Wong up by one.

But Wong crumbled with a double-bogey from the right bunker and Lopez barely missed a winning birdie from six feet, enabling Vic Cordero and Ronnie Littaua to forge a 2-2 tie, give Forest a 2.5-1.5 victory and forge a playoff.

The winning team will be honored tomorrow at the annual Fed League awards night at Dencio's at the Fort.

Ucap-Bacolod derby tonight

SIXTY-FOUR fights are lined up in Mandaluyong Coliseum's grand showdown of champions, the 7th Ucap-Bacolod Group 7-Stag Derby kicking off at 6 tonight.

Sponsors are Sagupaan Super Feeds and Washout Shampoo.

Ucap's Stagfighter of the Year 2001 winner will finally be known after this event. The current frontrunners are *sabong* idol Patrick Antonio (Hammer Sagupaan) and engineer Sonny Lagon (Blue Blade JBB) who have 25 points each. Within striking distance is businessman Vic Yu (Sir Vincent, 24.5).

Trailing them are Mayor Claudy Bautista (CPB-PBJR, 22.5); Jessie Viceo (San Rafael Anniv., 22); Benjie Lim (Ucap BL Sept. 25-27, 21.5) and Biboy Enriquez (Oct. 9 and 11 Mandaluyong).

For other inquiries, please contact 534-4410, 535-2341, 531-4003 and 531-4005.

PGA CLASSIC

Coceres holds off Love, wins by 1 shot

LAKE BUENA VISTA, Florida— Jose Coceres had to overcome an erratic front nine, a late downpour and an uncharacteristically shaky putter at the 18th to eventually win the $3.4-million PGA Classic here Sunday.

Coceres, who held a three-stroke lead at the start of the day, closed out with a two-putt for a one-shot win over Davis Love III.

The Argentine carded a 4-under-par 68 and held off Love with a 72-hole total of 23-under 265, which was enough to win for the second time on the Tour this season.

The win also catapulted him from 56th to 33rd on the money list with nearly 1.5 million-dollars after he collected the 612,000-dollars first prize, which he said he would give to his mother, who is celebrating Mother's Day in Argentina.

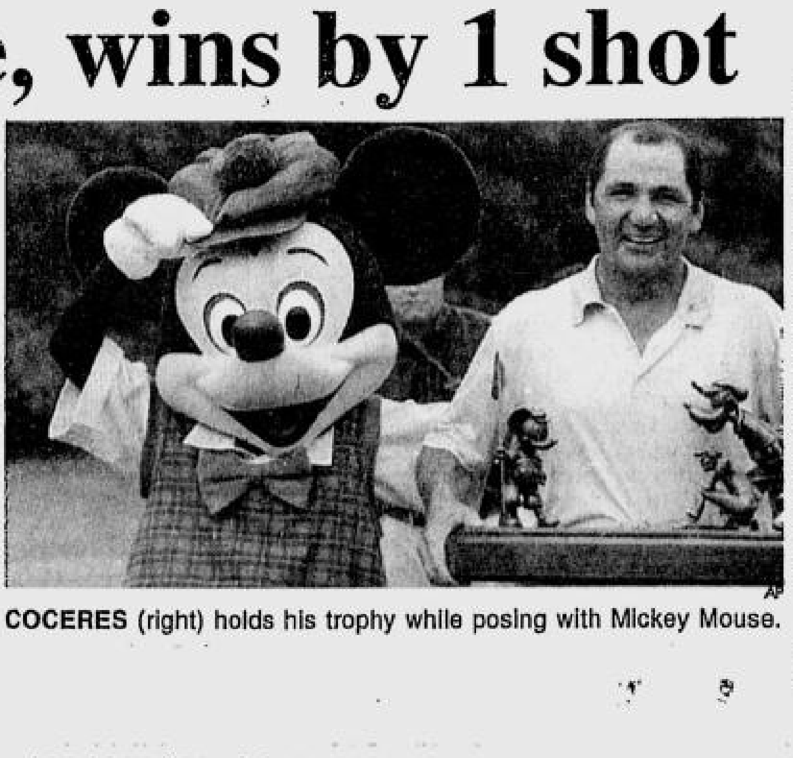
"I think that's the best gift I could've given her," Coceres, who inched closer to a Tour Championship berth, said through an interpreter. "If this isn't the best one, then she's going to have to pick another one."

Coceres, 38, grew up in northern Argentina, sharing a two-room house with 10 siblings. He did not own clubs until he was 18 when he won a caddy tournament and bought the set he had borrowed.

Love, who lost his father in a plane crash 13 years ago, recently had a disc problem in his neck, but the fifth-ranked player in the world kept pressure on Coceres with a 66 to finish second for the third time this season.

Jerry Smith tied David Peoples for third at 20-under 268 with lefthander Steve Flesch fifth at 269. Vijay Singh of Fiji, David Toms and Sweden's Jesper Parnevik were among seven players at 270, two shots better than world No.1 Tiger Woods. *AFP*

ST ANDREWS, Scotland —Former British Open champion Paul Lawrie lifted the gloom at the weather-plagued Dunhill Links Championship on Sunday with a 9-under-par 63 to gain a share of the third round lead with Paul McGinley. *AP*



COCERES (right) holds his trophy while posing with Mickey Mouse. AP

NFL: Rams remain unbeaten

EAST RUTHERFORD, New Jersey—Trung Canidate scored twice and accounted for 232 yards Sunday, helping the St. Louis Rams remain the NFL's only unbeaten team with a 34-14 victory over the New York Jets. St. Louis is only the second NFL team to start three straight seasons with six victories. The 1929-31 Green Bay Packers had the only other such streak.

AP

SPORTS

AL S. MENDOZA, Editor **EDWIN M. VILLANUEVA**, Assistant Editor

US team to fight biological threats

SALT LAKE CITY, Utah - US Olympic medical personnel will have anthrax treatment cipro and other drugs to fight biological terrorism available at next February's Winter Olympics. Dan Carr, head physician for the US Olympic team, said here Sunday that in the wake of terrorist attacks last month and mailings of anthrax last week, enough cipro will be available to treat all 450 expected US athletes.

AFP

ACTS OF LASCIVIOUSNESS

Beauty queen sues Owens

BY CHRISTIAN V. ESGUERRA

PROBLEMS are mounting for Sta. Lucia Realty import Damian Owens after a former beauty titlist yesterday filed a case of acts of lasciviousness against him in Makati City.

Colette Glazer, 20, a Binibining Pilipinas-International titleholder in 1998, went to the Makati police station and claimed that Owens made a pass on her inside Where Else Disco at 1:30 a.m. on Oct. 11.

Glazer was the companion of Vicenter Jose Campa, 24, who Owens allegedly beat up in the same disco that morning.

Police are set to file today cases of acts of lasciviousness and physical injuries against the second-time import before the Makati city prosecutor's office, said Insp. Romeo Ramos.

In a two-page affidavit, Glazer said Owens, who seemed to be drunk, touched her on the hand and buttocks when they chanced upon each other on the second floor of the disco, according to Ramos.

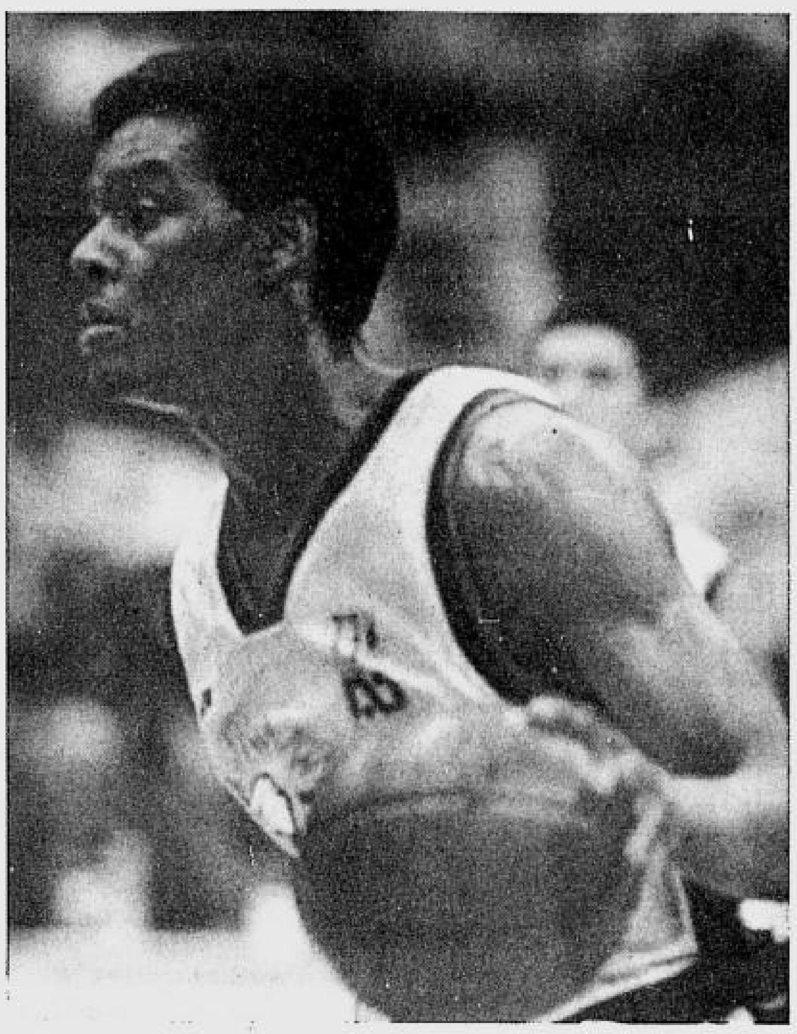
The victim said she later confronted the suspect and told him not to "touch girls he doesn't know especially in the Philippines," the police officer said, quoting Glazer's statement in the affidavit.

Owens did not apologize and even allegedly cursed the woman, Ramos said.

Glazer reported the incident to companions Elsie Sicat, 22, also a former beauty titlist, Derek Ramsey, 24, and Campa, according to him.

Campa gave Owens a piece of his mind, but the American allegedly punched him on the left ear when he turned his back, Ramos added.

Disco security guards stepped in and broke the fight.



OWENS: Realtor in trouble.

FILE PHOTO

Racela player of the week

OLSEN Racela is coming up big for the Beermen in the Philippine Basketball Association Governors Cup. So big that despite the breakout game of a celebrated import and the continued effectivity of a gunslinger, Racela was a hands down choice for the Player of the Week.

The moment Racela's name appeared in the list of candidates from Oct. 15 to 21, nobody among the voting sportswriters gave the others in the list a second glance.

And what a list it was.

Ray Tutt, the ballyhooed Red Bull import who finally came through with a big performance in this conference against Sta. Lucia, was included in the list of candidates. So was Askia Jones, the pure shooter who silenced the rabid pro-Ginebra crowd in Bataan with his excellent marksmanship.

But Racela was in a class of his own.

His stats hardly reflect it, after all, he had just 17 points and four rebounds against the lone San Miguel outing this week, a 74-67 triumph over Alaska.

PBL cagers meet today

PBL players will take a unified appeal today against the recent UAAP ruling barring them for playing in the Philippine Basketball League.

The players will convene and sign a manifesto at 2 p.m. today at the Makati Coliseum, asking both the UAAP and the NCAA to look further into how the collegiate leagues will benefit from allowing them to play in the PBL. They added that UAAP officials should take into consideration the welfare of the players rather than the legal technicalities of the Games and Amusements Board's decision that the PBL is professional.

PSC to get P107-M budget

THE Philippine Sports Commission should brace itself for more belt-tightening measures. This developed after Budget Secretary Emilia Boncodin yesterday told the House committee on budget scrutinizing the PSC's allocation for 2002 that the government could not go beyond P107 million,

Boncodin, however, did not discount supplemental funding saying her department "would find other sources to offset shortfalls at least in the sports agency."

PSC Chair Carlos Tuason said his main concern is the holding of the Palarong Pambansa, which was shelved this year due to lack of funds.

Bacolod Rep. Monico Puentevella of the House committee on youth and sports shared Tuason's sentiment, adding that the Palaro budget should be treated distinct from the PSC share from general appropriations.

Puentevella, a former sports commissioner, said another P100 million—P60 million for the 16 regional meets and P40 million for the nationals—is needed for the 2002 Palaro.

"We have to make an appeal to the budget department and the congressmen about the predicament we are in," said Tuason. "There are urgent expenditures, especially on the Palaro, that need to be addressed."

Aware of the problems confronting the PSC, Puentevella discouraged the street protest the Athletes and Coaches Alliance of the Philippines has scheduled for Thursday.

"Not even Superman could solve the problem of Philippine sports right now," said Puentevella, adding a tripartite summit among the PSC, the Philippine Olympic Committee and the athletes could be a good start.

The Acap, headed by Jaime Sebastian, claimed that they would hold a rally on Thursday to seek a revamp in the PSC and the POC.

Roy Luarca

'Black Widow' confirms arrival for duel vs Bata

WORLD Games gold medal winner Jeanette Lee, the stunningly attractive pool player from the US, has confirmed she will be in Manila as scheduled for the LG Flatron Billiard Challenge against Efren "Bata" Reyes at Casino Filipino, Parañaque on Nov. 3.

There were doubts last week that Lee, known as "The Black Widow" because of her flair for gothic all-black leather and lace attire and her deadly skill at the table, would make the trip because of the current international situation.

However, reassurances from LG Collins, the sponsor of the event, convinced her to visit Manila for the unique one-on-one, race to thirteen.

Reyes, acknowledged as "The Magician" because of his incredible shot-making said he isn't taking Jeanette Lee lightly and has been practicing daily for the challenge.

Reyes said Lee has beaten some Filipino pool players and when she is on a roll can clean up the table. She can run rack after rack without a hint of a smile and is regarded as "cold and deadly" by her opponents.

Reyes conceded that he could be "distracted" by the alluring Lee and would have to keep his "concentration on the game to win." He said Jeanette Lee would have a chance to beat him in a short race to five, but in a race to thirteen he has the advantage.

Reyes promised it should be "an exciting and interesting duel" but he doesn't plan to be humiliated by losing to a woman in the LG Flatron Challenge with total prize money of $15,000.

In a preliminary to the Reyes-Lee challenge, four of the country's most promising pool players will compete in a knockout battle of "The Rising Stars" for the total prize money of P100,000.

Outspoken Aussie pug blames US

SYDNEY, Australia—Outspoken Australian boxer Anthony Mundine says the United States brought the Sept. 11 terror attacks against New York and Washington on itself.

Mundine, an Australian Aborigine who reportedly became a Muslim to model himself on former world heavyweight champion Muhammad Ali, condemned the campaign against terrorism in Afghanistan and said Australians should not be involved.

"I really feel that it's not our problem," Mundine said in an Australian TV interview Monday. "They call it an act of terrorism but if you can understand religion and our way of life it's not about terrorism.

"It's about fighting for God's laws, and America's brought it upon themselves (for) what they've done in the history of time."

The former rugby league player expects to advance to a super middleweight world title bout within 12 months after his knockout win on the weekend of compatriot Guy Waters, who challenged for three world titles earlier in his career.

Mundine's father, Tony Mundine, was a former Australian and Commonwealth boxing champion.

AP

Padilla named 'Hero'

JUST when their fans thought the Cebuana Lhuillier Gems are going down, Stephen Padilla stepped up.

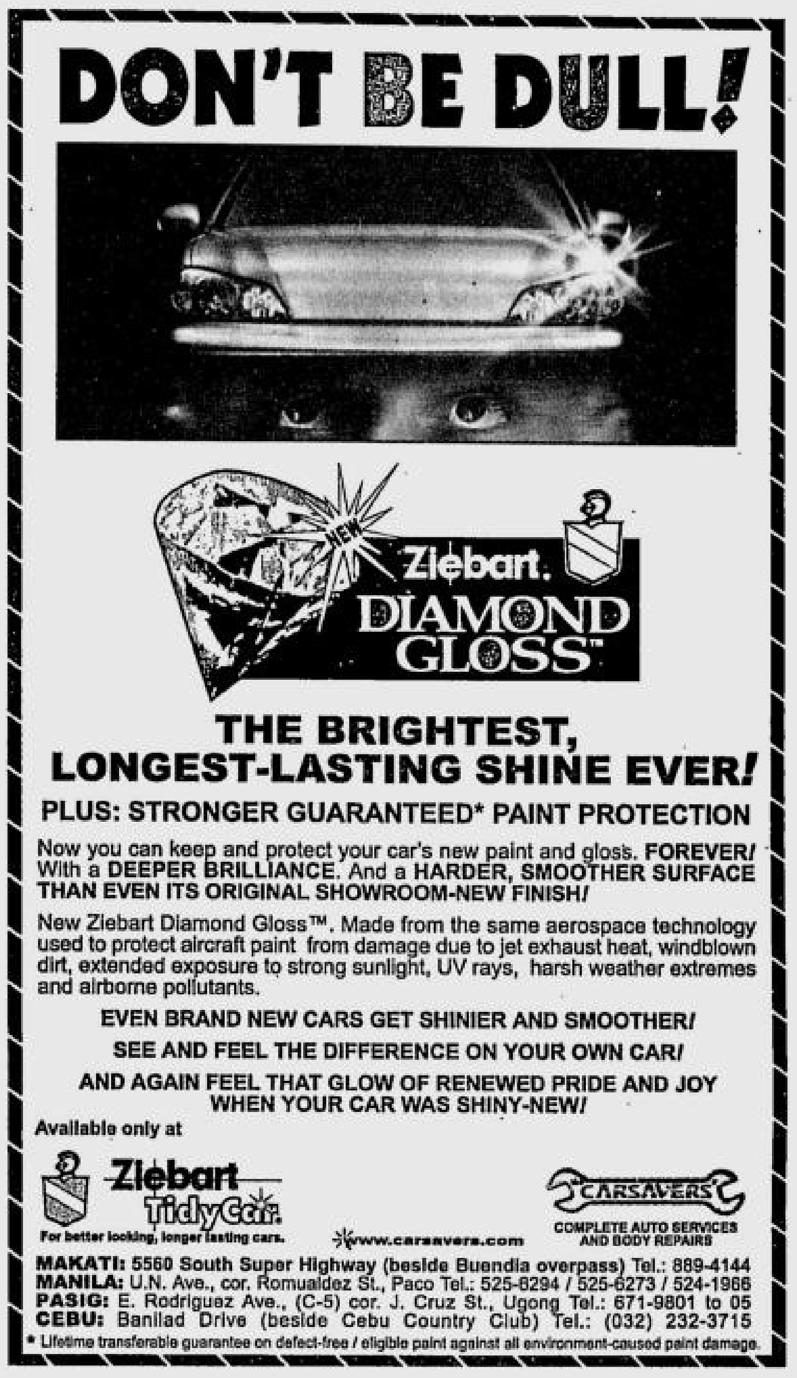
Padilla, a 5-foot-11 prized find from the University of the Visayas, scored four of Cebuana Lhuillier's last five points as the Gems repulsed the TPG Davao Eagles, 89-86, Sunday night in the MBA Second Phase at the San Juan Gym.

Were it not for Padilla's clutch hits, the Gems would have suffered their third straight defeat and the Eagles would have broke into the win column.

Padilla's sterling showing in the last 26 seconds proved enough to convince the MBA Press Corps to name him as Hardcourt Hero of the Week from Oct. 17-21. He got the nod over Socsargen-Taguig's Bong Alvarez and Andok's San Juan's Bruce Dacia by just one vote.

For Padilla, playing hard was just part of the job.

"We needed that win very badly because we'll be playing in Cebu this Wednesday. If we were coming from back-to-back losses, few would probably watch our game against the Negros Slashers," said Padilla, who missed his first stint with the Philippine team abroad in the last Southeast Asian Games when he gave way to Vince Hizon.



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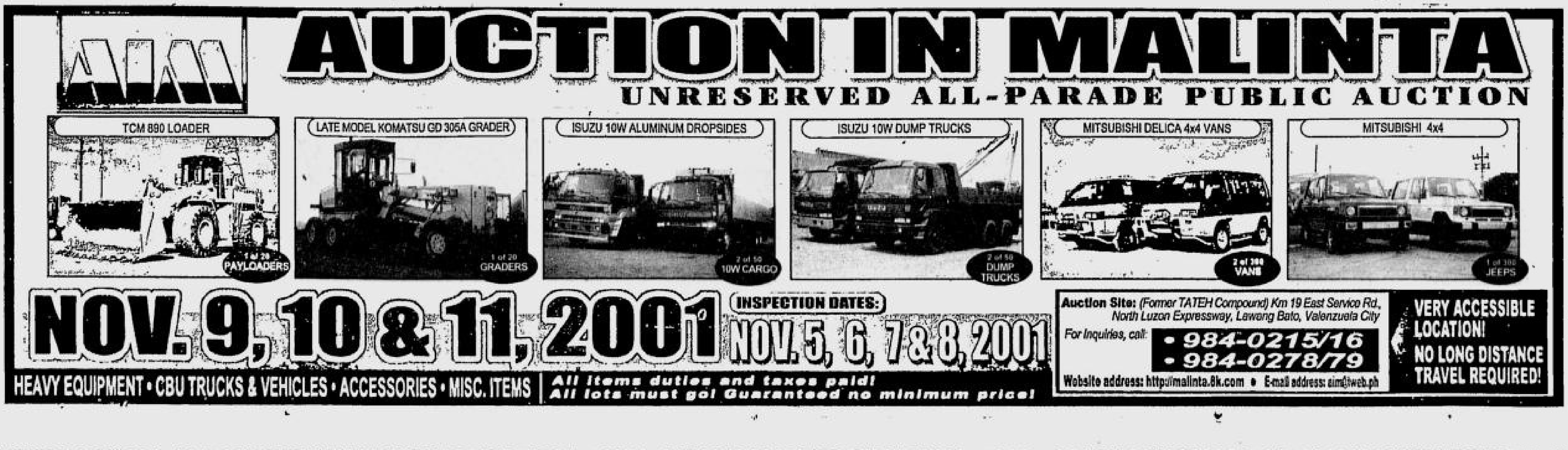

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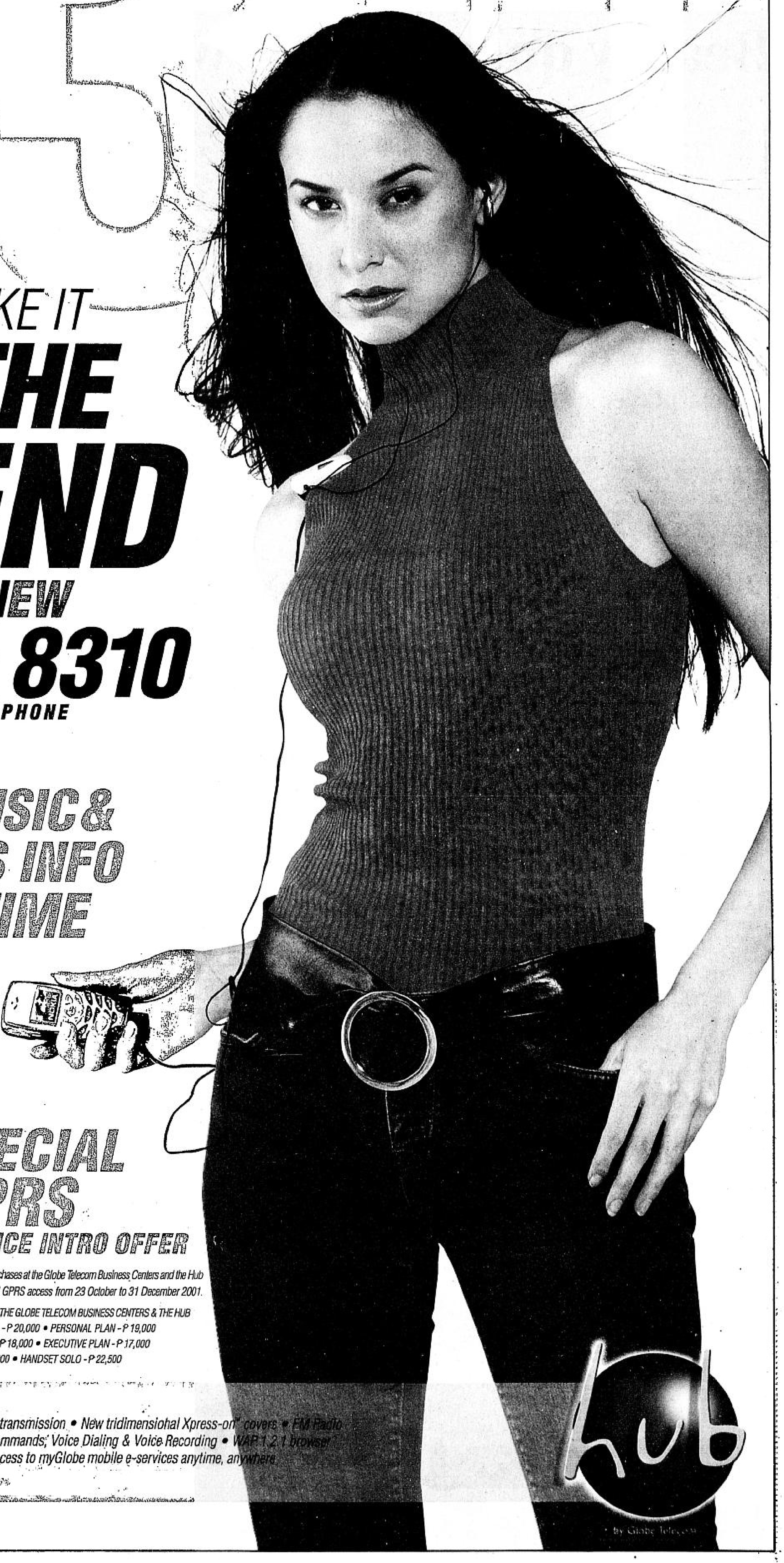

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METRO
LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

6 CPD cops sacked for robbing woman A20

Court stops arrest of former mayor A20

FOREIGN EXPERT SKEPTICAL

'Waste segregation plan waste of time and money'

By Christian V. Esguerra

"A WASTE of time, money and effort" was how one foreign expert described the Philippine government's waste segregation scheme which includes plans to build segregation plants throughout Metro Manila.

Roger van den Berghe, 60, a Belgian economist and consultant on garbage, on Sunday said the scheme would be virtually ineffective in solving the garbage crisis now gripping Metro Manila.

He said segregation plants are costly and ineffective, especially in dealing with large volumes of trash such as those in Metro Manila.

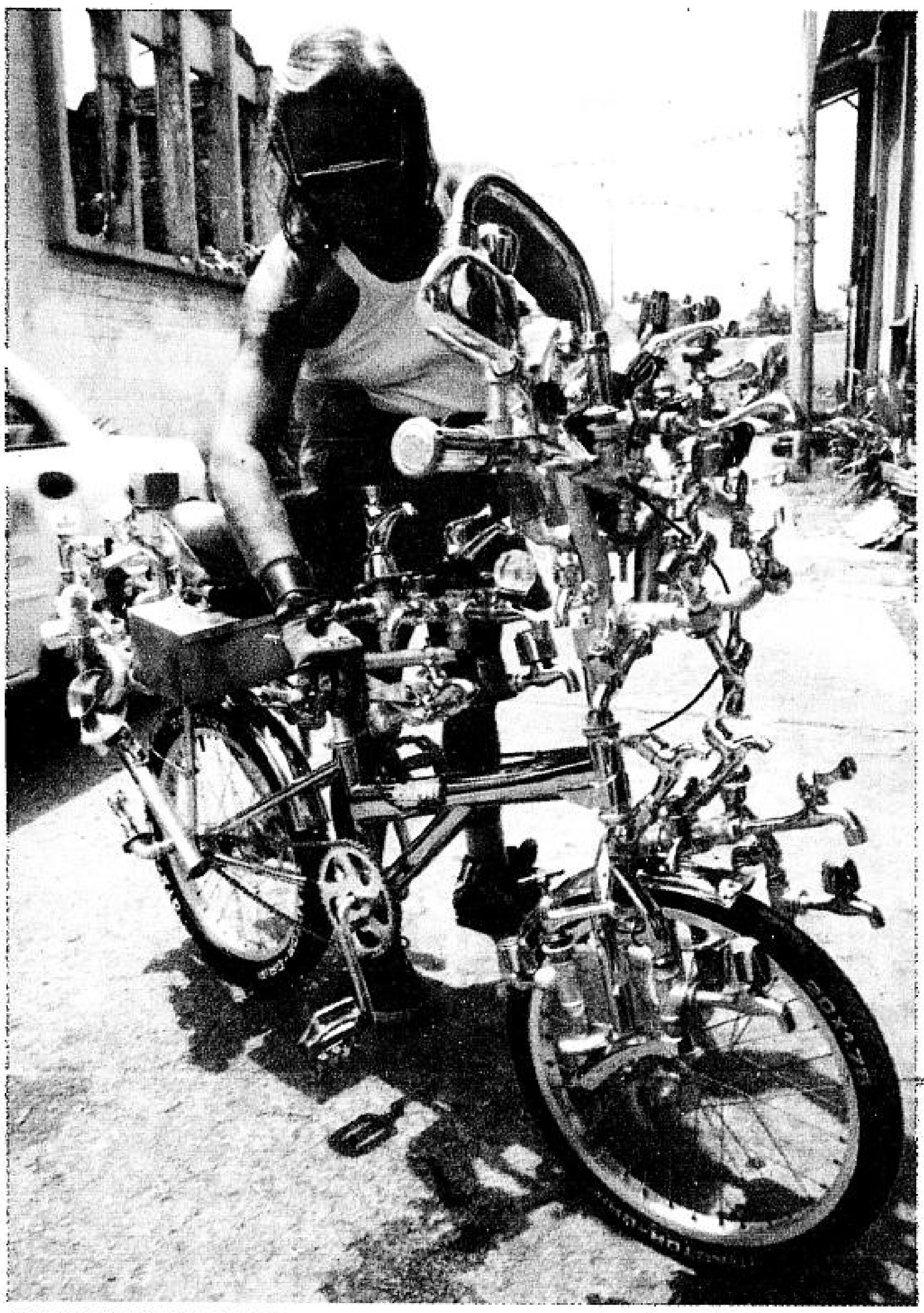
"In essence, you're just building a very big junk shop and still you have to look for places where you could throw the garbage," he said.

He said European countries have been implementing the waste segregation scheme with very little results.

"For the scheme to be effective, there should be a policeman looking after each resident to make sure that he's segregating garbage," the Belgian told the Inquirer in an interview. "But how can you do that, especially in the Philippines?"

The Metro Manila

WASTE/ A20



MAN TAPS FAUCETS
This unidentified man from Pasay City either wants to make a statement about the uselessness of faucets in delivering water to the dry parts of Metro Manila, or he simply has a fixation for faucets, shining new ones, which he attaches every which way to his bicycle. ERIK ARAZAS

4 suspected rebels killed in Antipolo

By Nelson F. Flores

MEMBERS of the Philippine National Police Special Action Force who were on patrol in the mountainous area of Antipolo City killed four suspected members of the communist New People's Army over the weekend.

Police identified the slain suspects as Dominador Aniceto, Emiliano de la Rosa and his son Reynaldo and Raul Maguisa, all residents of Antipolo City. All four died on the spot from gunshot wounds, police said.

Four loaded shotguns and empty shotgun shells were recovered from them, police said.

But relatives of the slain men refuted the police claims that the fatalities were communist rebels. They said the four men were merely hunting wild animals in Sitio Casunugan.

Police said about 40 men of the PNP-SAF led by Insp. Ericson Dilag was watching a suspected NPA training camp in Sitio Casunugan San Isidro in Barangay San Jose when they chanced upon the four men about 9:15 a.m. last Sunday.

Dilag told Antipolo police investigators that he and his men, based in Camp Bagong Diwa in Bicutan, Taguig, were assigned to do reconnoitering work on a reported NPA camp in Antipolo City.

Dilag said that as they were approaching the suspected NPA camp they encountered a group of men, including the four men they eventually shot dead. Dilag said the suspects were maneuvering themselves in an ambush position when his men spotted them.

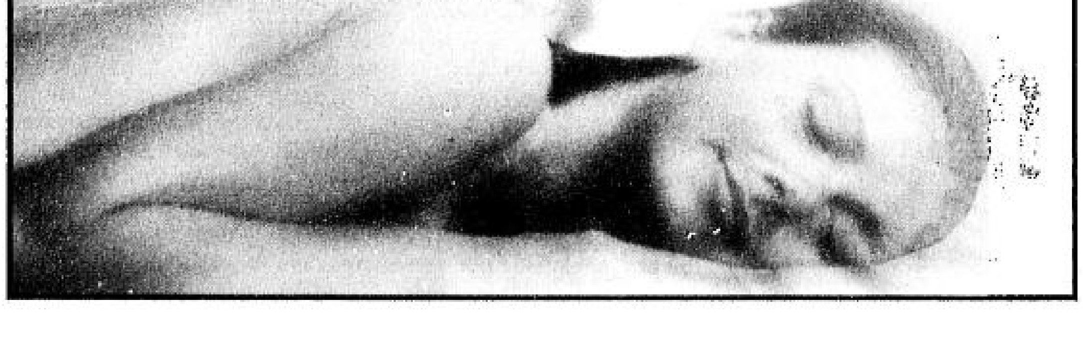
He said they tried to make the suspects surrender but the latter refused, triggering a gun battle. After the four men were shot down, their companions scampered into different directions, police said.

Relatives of the slain men noted that all four were shot at close range and their bodies were brought to the Antipolo City police station a day after the alleged encounter happened.

The relatives said an impartial investigation must be conducted to determine the truth.

The four bodies were brought to Funeraria Oro in Antipolo for autopsy.

2 MWSS officers dismissed A21
QC post office worries more about Yule mail than anthrax A21
Crimes rise in 'ber' months A21
Gun owner shot dead in sleep A21



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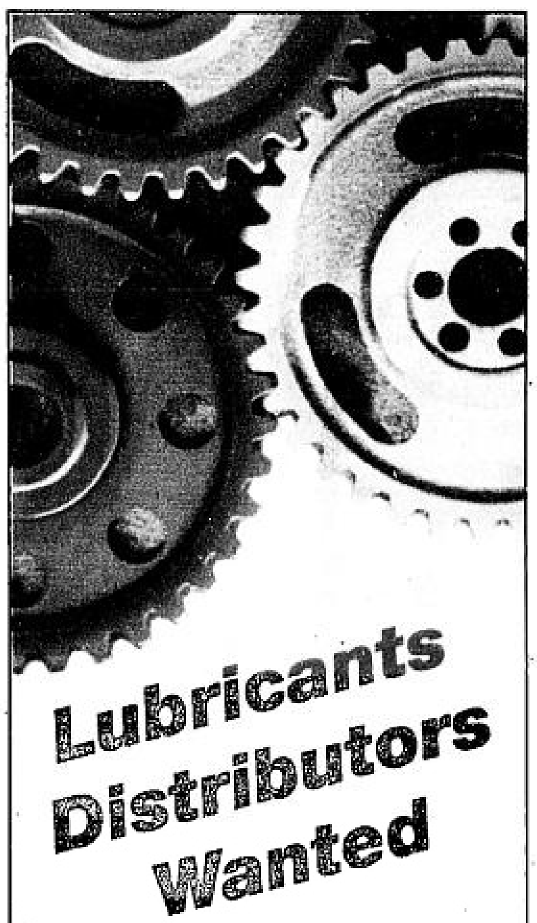

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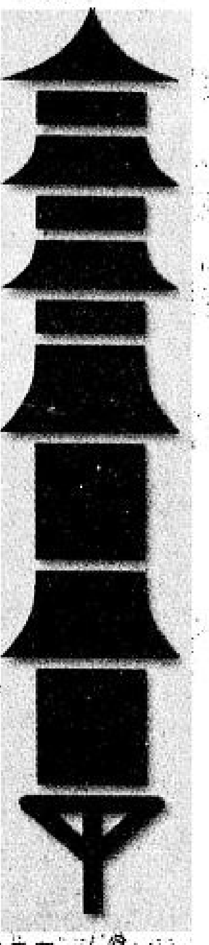

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6 CPD cops sacked for robbing woman

By Andrea Trinidad-Echavez

ONE reason why the illegal drug trade in Quezon City continues with impunity may be because some members of the Central Police District's drug enforcement group are busy doing other things—like innocent civilians.

Six members of the district drug enforcement group (DDEG) yesterday were sacked from their posts after a businesswoman identified them as the same ones who barged into her residence last week and stole some P7,300 in cash.

Magdalena Babina, of Quezon City, identified the cops-and-robbers as SPO3 Dante Yang, SPO2 Dante Gimpes, police officers 3 Lucio Husmalaga and Cleto Montegrejo, and police officers 2 Rommel Bautista and Eduardo Datul.

The CPD director, Chief Supt. Rodolfo Tor, immediately ordered the relief of the erring sextet. They would be charged criminally and administratively, Tor said.

Babina alleged that the policemen entered her residence shortly before midnight on Oct. 19 and demanded money from her.

The policemen, however, maintained that it was a "legitimate buy-bust operation."

However, they failed to produce any evidence that would prove their operation was legitimate.

The CPD filed charges of robbery and violation of domicile against the six policemen before the Quezon City prosecutor's office.

Tor appealed to Quezon City residents to report all abuses and misconduct committed by CPD members.

"These misdeeds are never tolerated in the police service," the CPD chief declared.

He admitted, though, that the Philippine National Police still has an "unwanted breed of men in uniform."

"But let us not lose hope because the PNP has an effective system that deals with this kind of unwanted breed of men in uniform or scalawags," he said.

He also said the community should be vigilant in reporting police abuses to enhance the feedback mechanism.

Court holds arrest of former mayor

SAN ILDEFONSO, Bulacan—The Court of Appeals last week issued a temporary restraining order on the enforcement of a warrant issued by a local court for the arrest of former mayor Enrique Viudez, the prime suspect in the killing of former mayor Honorato Galvez.

Justices Hilarion Aquino, Jose Sabio Jr. and Eliezer de los Santos of the CA's special second division ordered Judge Basilio Gabo Jr. of the Malolos Regional Trial Court on Oct. 16 to stop implementing the arrest warrant he issued against Viudez.

The order came after Viudez, who earlier filed an appeal for a writ of preliminary injunction on the dismissal of his double murder charges, paid a P500,000 bond.

The CA said that pending the final resolution of Viudez's appeal for a writ of preliminary injunction, the implementation of the warrant for his arrest would be of "great or irreparable injury as he could momentarily be arrested and detained on non-bailable charges."

The appellate court also directed Gabo to comment in 10 days why Viudez's appeal for a writ of preliminary injunction should not be granted.

Gabo issued the arrest warrant against Viudez based on a resolution filed by the Department of Justice that found prima facie evidence of his inclusion as among those responsible for the murders of Galvez and his bodyguard Rodolfo Mangahas in June 2000.

Viudez, Galvez's political rival, was identified as one of the two masterminds in the murders.

Eulogio Villanueva, Viudez's aide during the mayor's term from July 1998 to June this year, was the first to be charged as mastermind.

Police have yet to arrest Villanueva who is reportedly in the United States. *Carmela Reyes, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

'Waste segregation . . .

(From page A19)

Development Authority has been asking the public to support the government's waste segregation scheme, hoping that the scheme would be the ultimate solution to the garbage problem.

Local officials have even threatened to arrest those who do not follow the scheme.

In Caloocan City, Mayor Reynaldo Malonzo also on Sunday said he would build a multimillion-peso segregation plant, which he believes could solve the city's garbage problem by February next year.

Van den Berghe said segregation plants are anything but environment-friendly because of the stink they create.

He said local authorities should be more "creative and imaginative" in looking for ways to solve the garbage crisis.

"There are other ways (to dispose of garbage) aside from landfills, incinerators, and segregation plants," he said. "We should be open to other possibilities."

Metro Manila mayors are in a hurry to solve the garbage problem in their areas following a meeting with President Macapagal-Arroyo.

The President had ordered them to clean up their cities and municipalities by Christmas.

MMDA Chair Benjamin Abalos Sr. earlier declared a "state of emergency" to enable mayors to use their calamity funds to deal with the garbage crisis in their towns and cities.

GREEN MAN

Metro Manila Development Authority Chair Benjamin Abalos Sr. joins grade school pupils of Miriam College in the kick-off rite for the greening and beautification of Katipunan Avenue, where the school is located, in Quezon City. The greening of Katipunan is a project of the MMDA, the Quezon City government and schools and shops along the avenue.

METROBRIEFS

Vendor killed

VENDOR Ronald D. Lauz was beaten up, stabbed and shot to death in front of his wife Jennifer in Tondo, Manila. Police identified Lauz's assailants as businessman Bonifacio de la Cruz, 49, and his two sons, Jonard, 23, and Ronnie, 24. The De la Cruzes were neighbors of Lauz. Police said the Lauzes were about to enter their house in Tondo when the suspects surprised them. The older De la Cruz pulled out a handgun and shot Lauz pointblank, police said. Ronnie then punched Lauz and Jonard stabbed him repeatedly, police said. Lauz did not make it alive to the hospital. The suspects escaped after the killing. Police are hunting them down. *Philip C. Tubeza*

Manhunt

MANILA Mayor Lito Atienza has ordered the Western Police District chief to form a team to hunt down the killers of barangay chair Diosdado Reyes in Sta. Mesa, Manila. Reyes was 60 when he was gunned down in front of the barangay hall in Barangay 628 in Sta. Mesa last Thursday. Atienza also ordered WPD director Chief Supt. Nicolas Pasinos Jr. to look deeper into the case and consider the possibility that drug syndicates could be behind the killing. He said Reyes' anti-drug campaign in his barangay could have been affecting the drug trade in the area. But police are also not discounting politics as a motive for the killing. Many barangay executives in Sta. Ana and Sta. Mesa withdrew their support for the Ocampo political clan in favor of Mark Jimenez, who won the congressional race by a slim margin. Police have yet to ascertain if Reyes withdrew his support from Ocampo. *Jerome Aning*

Car thieves

MEMBERS of the Central Police District arrested suspected car thieves Reynaldo Soriano and Joseph Aquino while they were on board an Isuzu HRS van, which had just been reported stolen. The vehicle's owner, Maribel Medina, had parked the van in front of her family's bakery in UP Village on Wednesday night before it went missing. The following day, PO3 Gilbert Manalo and PO2 Tommy Llarenas of the Mobile Patrol Unit spotted the stolen vehicle along Commonwealth Avenue near the Quezon City Memorial Circle. The policemen flagged down the suspects, who sped away instead of stopping. Police said a caller had offered Manalo and Llarenas P15,000 in exchange for the release of the suspects. *Andrea Trinidad-Echavez*

Peeping Tom

TO peek at a woman taking a bath, welder Reynaldo Madriaga, 31, had to hang upside down from a window at the construction site where he was working in Makati City, police said. The woman, Lerma Lazaroy, 25, of Durango Street in Barangay Palanan, Makati, said she did not know Madriaga was watching her while she was taking a shower in her bathroom in her house about 10 p.m. on Sunday. *Christian V. Esguerra*

Tourism project, landfill may share Bataan space

By Jerome Aning

THE Department of Tourism is looking at a portion of Bataan as a leisure and residential hub even as the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority is finalizing plans of converting another part of the province into a dump for Metro Manila's waste.

Tourism Secretary Richard Gordon said developing 217 hectares in Bagac, Bataan into a leisure and residential center would boost tourism in the northern part of the country. Philcomsat would undertake the development of the project, he said.

How the MMDA plan to convert the land surrounding the Bataan Nuclear Power Plant in nearby Morong town would affect the tourism project is still being considered.

On Wednesday, the Bataan provincial government will convene a multisectoral consultation on waste management in Balanga City.

Bataan Gov. Leonardo Roman called on various sectors in the province to air their position on how the province could help solve the garbage crisis in Metro Manila.

Provincial and local officials, religious groups, nongovernment organizations, businessmen and residents are expected to attend the consultations.

The Catholic Church in the province has been actively opposing the use of a landfill as a means of garbage disposal and has proposed zero-waste management in Bataan.

Several groups are also opposed to the dumping of waste in Bataan.

Last week, Energy Secretary Vicente Perez said the government is considering the possibility of converting the land surrounding the Bataan Nuclear Plant in Morong town into a landfill for Metro Manila's garbage.

About two years ago, Roman had ordered several groups to conduct studies and research on a safe, environment-friendly and economical way of disposing of the Bataan's garbage.

He said the Catholic Church's proposed zero-management system is the most ideal, but it would not immediately solve the garbage problem in Bataan.

The Philcomsat project in Bataan is located at the foothills of Bagac and is along the southwestern coast of the province facing the South China Sea.

It is easily accessible from other landmarks and activity centers in Region 3 such as Subic, Clark and Montemar Beach Club, according to the DOT Office of Tourism Information

Gordon said the Bagac project is under the so-called "hub and spokes" strategy of DOT.

The site is considered as one of the "spokes" of Manila.

From Manila, the main hub, one can reach Bagac via a two-and-a-half hour drive along the North Luzon Expressway. It could also be reached by a 55-minute ride on the Mt. Samat ferry express, which has 10 trips daily, from Manila to Orion Port in Bataan.

From Orion, a shuttle service will be provided to transport travelers to Bagac in less than 30 minutes.

The project's main component is the construction of championship 18-hole golf course, parks, a nature activities' area and a country club.

Other components include the residential development area, a beach resort, which is already existing, and residences for retirees and foreigners.

The site of the 18-hole golf course designed by Robert Trent Jones covers about 80 hectares inclusive of the driving range, clubhouse, maintenance facilities and nursery.

The clubhouse will be the focal point of the golf course's operations, which include coffee shops, a game room, parking and other facilities. *With Greg Refraccion, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

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News that makes a difference

Solons don't deserve 'honorable' tag

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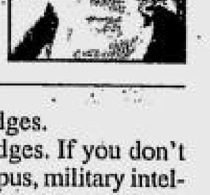


Ramon Tulfo

SENATE minority floor leader Aquilino "Nene" Pimentel is right: Senators should omit the word "honorable" when they address one another during committee hearings or during deliberations on the Senate floor.

That also goes for people summoned by Senate committees to their hearings "in aid for legislation" (although only the naïve among the citizenry would not know the real purpose of those hearings).

Senators address one another as "the honorable senator" from so-and-so province. Lesser mortals summoned to the committee hearings are expected to end every statement with "your honor."

***

Pimentel said he found it distasteful that senators insist on being called "honorable."

Hurray! *Mabuhay ka,* Nene!

Let the citizenry decide whether to address senators—or congressmen, for that matter—as "honorable."

Patting themselves on the back—that's what senators or congressmen do when they call each other "honorable"—leaves a bad taste in the mouth. Visayans have a term for it: *hilas*.

As long as there are drug traffickers, kidnappers, murderers and rapists in the Senate or House of Representatives, it's not proper to call a senator or congressman "honorable."

***

Why insist on the term "honorable" when "Sir" or "Madame" will do?

That also goes for court judges.

Ang daming kawatan na judges. If you don't believe me, ask Col. Victor Corpus, military intelligence chief, who has compiled a list of judges and even Supreme Court and Court of Appeals justices who are allegedly corrupt.

***

There is no evidence to link First Gentleman Jose Miguel "Mike" Arroyo to the alleged misuse of Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) funds. No less than opposition Senator Pimentel said this Saturday.

Nene Pimentel said that Arroyo's accuser, former PCSO consultant Robert Rivero, has consistently failed to present documentary evidence against the President's husband.

If that is so, why continue with the hearings?

Isn't that a clear case of protecting the interests of a member of the Old Boys Club, Sen. Panfilo Lacson?

Lacson delivered a privilege speech accusing Arroyo of being involved in the alleged fund mess, even without any shred of evidence. Lacson apparently made the accusation to deflect the accusations that he engaged in kidnapping, murder, drug trafficking while he was still a police general.

***

Truth to tell, Arroyo is a very good target on account of his being GMA's spouse.

Is it the guy's fault he is the husband of the country's highest official?

In hitting at Arroyo, GMA's enemies aim to tarnish her so far clean image.

***

Another witness corroborated the allegations of whistle blower Mary Ong, a.k.a. Rosebud, linking Senator Lacson to the drug trade.

SPO2 Mabini A. Rosale, former member of the PNP Narcotics Group (Narcgroup), testified that he sold methamphetamine hydrochloride (shabu) for Supt. John Campos, his former boss at Narcgroup.

Campos, Rosebud's estranged boyfriend, used to be one of Lacson's trusted men.

Rosale's testimony buttresses the one made by Remus Garganera, also at the Senate hearing, that Campos dealt in drugs.

***

Also at the hearing yesterday, Rosebud said that letters sent to Lacson by the Chinese Embassy accusing Lacson's men of the kidnapping and murder of Chinese nationals were referred to the very same persons who were mentioned in the letters as being involved in those crimes.

Sen. Joker Arroyo, who was present at the hearing, said that Rosebud's testimony was "damning evidence."

The noose is tightening on Lacson.

QC post office worries more about Yule mail than anthrax

By Agnes E. Donato

EMPLOYEES of the Quezon City post office are more anxious about the great volume of mail that they expect during the Christmas season than the anthrax scare.

Renato Endaya, Quezon City central post office postmaster, belittled reports that the fatal disease was being sent through the mail and he said he was not a bit worried about them.

Endaya said two mail recipients in Quezon City refused to accept their mail because of the anthrax scare, but he himself showed them that there was no need to worry about their mail.

"I even sniffed their letters in front of them to make my point that this anthrax scare is nothing but a product of exaggeration," he said.

He said the city's postal employees did not even see the need to take precautionary measures in handling the mail.

"As a matter of fact, we are more concerned about the mail that will be coming this Christmas and how we will handle them," Endaya said.

The Quezon City post office receives about 10 mailbags a day during the regular season, according to him.

But while he admitted that the mail had gone down to only seven to eight bags since the anthrax scare broke out, he said his office was expecting to receive about 25 to 35 mailbags starting next month.

Each mailbag contains around 3,000 letters, according to Endaya.

ACCUSED OF CAUSING DEMORALIZATION

2 MWSS administrators fired

By Agnes E. Donato

TWO deputy administrators of the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System were sacked allegedly for causing demoralization in the MWSS rank and file.

The services of lawyers Elena Luz Alojipan and Virgilio Ocaya, both deputy administrators of the MWSS regulatory office, were terminated effective Nov. 2.

In a letter dated Oct. 11, MWSS administrator Jose Mabanta said Alojipan and Ocaya lost the "trust and confidence" of the MWSS board of trustees.

Alojipan headed the financial regulation area while Ocaya the legal and administrative area.

In the same letter, the board of trustees also cited three other MWSS officials who had already resigned.

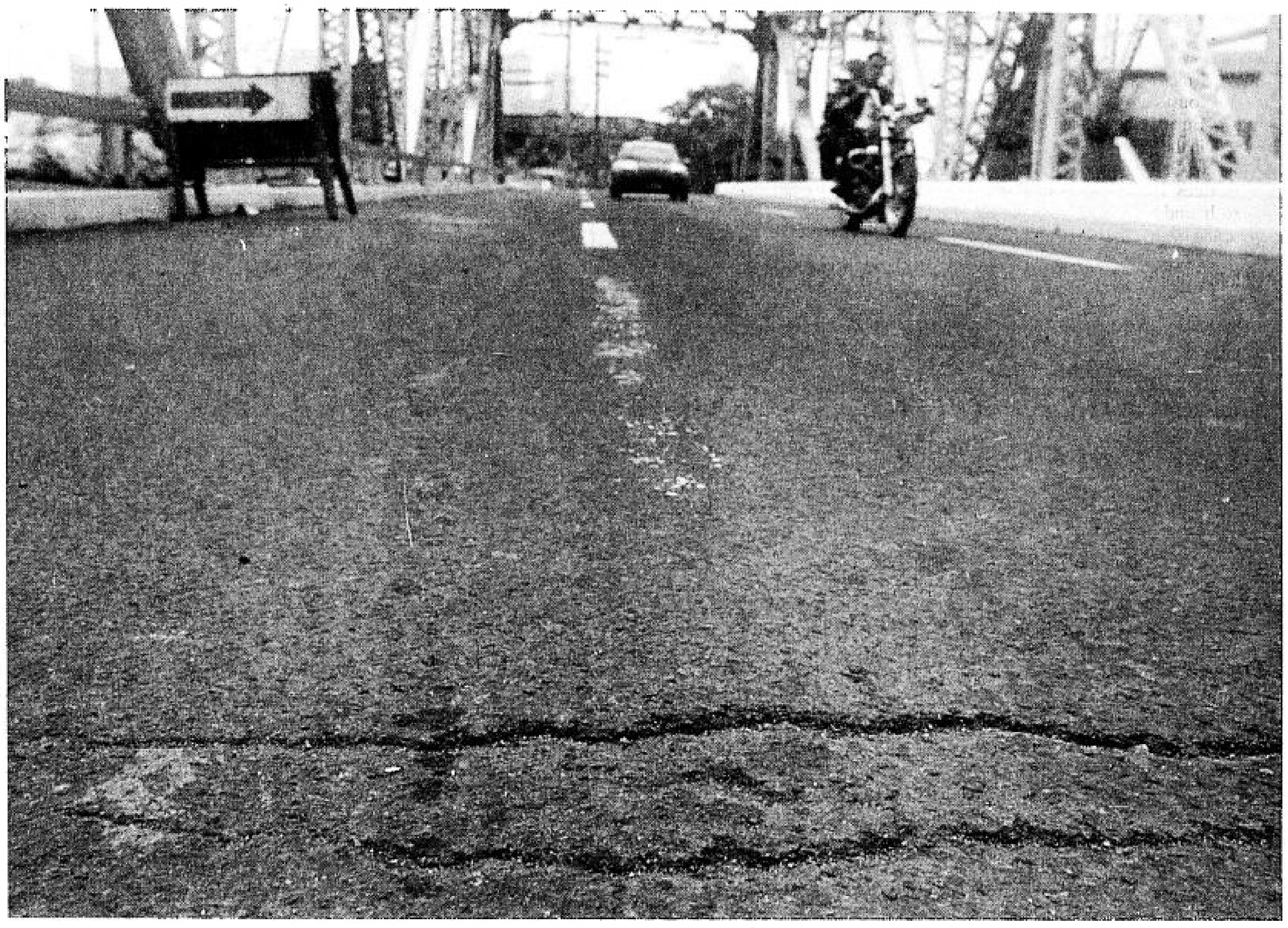
Mabanta said the controversies that hit the MWSS regulatory office had caused "confusion and divisiveness among the officers and employees, which seriously affected prompt and efficient discharge of the Regulatory Office's critical functions."

The MWSS regulatory office had been in disarray since employees filed a petition in February seeking the ouster of Alojipan and Ocaya on the grounds of "inefficiency, undesirability, favoritism, harassment and insubordination."

On May 23, the board adopted a resolution expressing its "dissatisfaction" with the regulatory office and directed Ocaya, Alojipan and two other deputy administrators—Eduardo Santos and Angel Efren Agustin—to resign from their posts to make way for a reorganization of the regulatory office.

The board also ordered chief regulator Rex Tantiongco to relinquish his post. But Tantiongco tendered his resignation even before the board released its resolution, while Santos and Agustin submitted their respective resignations earlier this month.

The Oct. 11 letter was also signed by Rafael Alunan III, president of the Maynilad Water Services Inc., and Antonino Aquino, president of the Manila Water Co. Inc.



CRACKING UP

Ominous cracks in the middle of Ayala Bridge over the Pasig River in Manila call attention to the need for the immediate repair of the span, whose steel support is very old and worn out.

RANDY HORMILLOSA

Crimes up in 'ber' months

MARIKINA City police chief Supt. Leo Kison warned against the traditional increase in crimes against property during the "ber" months.

He made the warning as suspected robbers struck in Marikina City late Sunday afternoon and took some P150,000 worth of personal effects of businesswoman Rafaelita Valdrez, 54. Among the stolen items were jewelry, cash and small appliances.

Police said Valdrez was in a business meeting when the robbers struck.

Kison said robbers usually are active whenever the Christmas season is approaching. He said the "ber" months — September to December — are times when the public should take extra precaution against criminal elements.

"This situation is true not only in Marikina City but all over the country," Kison stressed.

Nelson F. Flores

Special stamp

THE PHILIPPINE National Volunteer Service Coordinating Agency (PNVSC), in cooperation with the Postal Corp., will launch a special stamp to commemorate the International Year of Volunteers (IYV) on Oct. 24 at the Department of Foreign Affairs in Manila.

Vice President and Foreign Secretary Teofisto Guingona Jr. will be the guest of honor.

Gabriel David Medina designed the commemorative stamp. It features four corners in the background, which represent the four objectives of the IYV — promotion, facilitation, networking and recognition of the volunteers' goodwill and service to others. The laurel stands for the volunteers' nobility.

The UN General Assembly has declared the year 2001 as International Year of Volunteers (IYV) in recognition of the growing importance of volunteerism in addressing diverse human needs.

The National Steering Committee leads the local celebration of the IYV. It is composed of various agencies and organizations with National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) Director General Dante Canlas as chair. Assisting the committee is the Regional Steering Committee composed of the United Nations Information Centre (UNIC), the Philippine National Red Cross (PNRC) and Intel Philippines.

Caloocan has new parking scheme

ILLEGAL parking woes may soon be a thing of the past in Caloocan City after the city government implements a new and technologically advanced parking scheme starting Nov. 15.

The new scheme, called Integrated Traffic Management System, will also increase the city's revenues by as much as P1.5 million on the first year of implementation.

Mayor Reynaldo Malonzo hopes that with the new parking system, traffic congestion brought about by illegally parked vehicles will somehow be eased.

Caloocan is the first Metro Manila local government unit to implement the system, which according to Malonzo has bee used in at least 80 countries.

The system is also now being used in Baguio City.

At least 43 streets in Caloocan have been designated "pay-parking areas" where parking meters will be installed. The machines will issue the driver a ticket or proof of payment for the use of the parking space.

The ticket should be placed on the vehicle windshield as a proof of payment. Parked vehicles without the ticket will be towed.

In designated areas where no parking meter has been installed, a parking attendant will collect the parking fees.

"The implementation of the traffic management system will not only regulate the parking of vehicles, it will also provide additional income for the city as 20 percent of the total collection will go to the city coffers," Malonzo said.

The new system is part of the memorandum of agreement Caloocan signed last year with Jadewell Parking Systems Corp.

Malonzo said the city would not shell out a single centavo in the new parking scheme as the cost of all meters and apparatus would be shouldered by Jadewell.

Andrea Trinidad-Echavez

METROBRIEFS

Life term

A 50-YEAR-OLD tricycle driver was sentenced to life imprisonment after he was found guilty of raping a 10-year-old girl two years ago. In a seven-page decision, Judge Floro Alejo of the Valenzuela Regional Trial Court Branch 172 also ordered convicted rapist Reynaldo Pineda to pay the girl P50,000 in damages. Court records say Pineda lured the girl to his house in Valenzuela on Nov. 7, 1999. The girl said in her testimony that Pineda brought her into his room where he undressed her and then raped her. Two days after the rape, the girl told her grandmother. Pineda denied the charges and claimed the girl's family only wanted to extort money from him. But the court gave more credence to the girl's testimony and found Pineda guilty of rape.

Andrea Trinidad-Echavez

'Doy Laurel' beaten

A NAMESAKE of former Vice President Salvador Laurel and the namesake's son were beaten up in Pasay City on Sunday. Laurel, 49, a driver, and his son Noel, 23, suffered several injuries in the head and body after at least 20 men took turns in beating them up, police said. Noel was practicing a dance number in front of his house on Forbenier Street about 5 p.m. Sunday when the group arrived and began mocking him. When Noel lashed back, the group beat him up. They also attacked Laurel, who tried to break up the fight, police said. Police identified one of the suspects as Rico Canejo.

Christian V. Esguerra

Wife beater

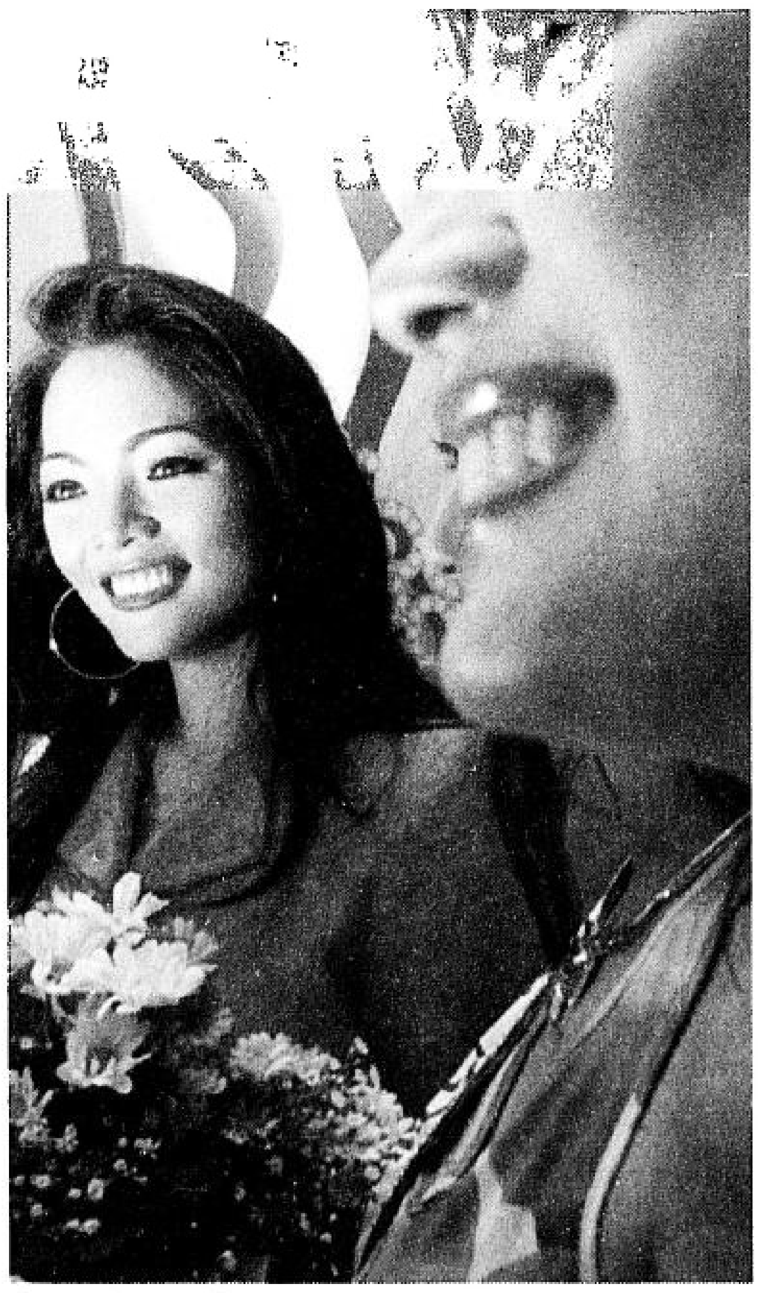
FOR beating up his wife, fish vendor Elioterio Janero, 31, was stabbed dead by his two nephews in Parañaque City, police said. Janero, of Barangay San Isidro, was drinking liquor with his relative Nicanor Martin about 5 p.m. Sunday when they argued about Janero's battering of his wife. The two men were exchanging blows when Janero's nephews Willy Banarez and Meynard Martin arrived and attacked their uncle with a knife, police said.

Christian V. Esguerra

Stabbed dead

PAINTER Mamli "Arnel" Abdul Gapur, 28, and his friend, salesman Jimmy A. Musa, 19, had just finished drinking and singing at a videoke bar in Port Area, Manila and were walking and eating chicharon when Ricky S. Tubalde, 33, assaulted them with a dagger about 10:30 p.m. on Sunday, police said. Gapur, of Port Area, died from a stab wound in the chest. Musa, who suffered a stab wound in the body, is still in critical condition, police said.

Philip C. Tubeza



OFF TO AFRICA

DENNIS SABANGAN

Binibining Pilipinas Girlhea Castañeda Quinzon glows as she faces the media before her departure for South Africa where she will represent the country in the Miss World beauty pageant.

Gun owner shot dead in sleep

DRIVER Domingo Domitta, 31, dared his drinking buddy to a fight to recover his stolen handgun Sunday night. But instead of getting back his gun, Domit-ta got a bullet in the body.

Laborer Ding Uzman, 19 of Baseco Compound, Port Area, Manila, shot and killed Domit-ta, also of Baseco Compound, while the latter was sleeping about 1:20 a.m. yesterday, said Chief Insp. Juanito A. Taluban, Western Police District homicide section chief.

Early that night, Domitta, Uzman and their other friends were drinking in an alley near Domit-ta's house. But an argument erupted between Domit-ta and Uzman when the former started to talk about his missing handgun, police said. Without naming names, Domit-ta hinted it was Uzman who stole his handgun.

But as Domit-ta was sleeping beside his live-in partner, Analyn, later that night, a gunshot roused the woman from sleep. She said she saw Uzman running away with a gun in his hand.

The victim's body was later taken to the Sanctuary Funeral Homes for autopsy, police said.

Philip C. Tubeza

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Tuesday, October 23 , 2001
29th Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: **Rom 5:12, 15, 17-19, 20-21**
Gospel: **Lk 12:35-38**

Jesus said to his disciples, "Be ready, dressed for service, and keep your lamps lit, like people waiting for their master to return from the wedding. As soon as he comes and knocks, they will open to him. Happy are those servants whom the master finds wide-awake when he comes. Truly, I tell you, he will put on an apron and have them sit at table and he will wait on them. Happy are those servants if he finds them awake when he comes at midnight or daybreak!"

Commentary

In the ancient orient, the time of returning from a wedding was uncertain. This is here the figure for the second coming of the Lord Jesus. It is not fixed in the calendar. Meanwhile, while waiting for his coming, we are to remain faithful servants continuing our duties. If we are faithful, when the Lord comes, he will give us a part in his banquet. The banquet is a biblical symbol of the kingdom. Not all of us will still be living when the end comes. But everyone has an end. And this end, our death, is for us our encounter with the Lord. Our readiness and faithfulness throughout life is our best preparation for the end.

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SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

REMEDIAL LAW (CIVIL PROCEDURE)—**Ejectment suit**—Generally, no man shall be affected by any proceeding to which he is a stranger, and strangers to a case are not bound by judgment rendered by the court. Nevertheless, a judgment in an ejectment suit is binding not only upon the defendants in the suit but also against those not made parties thereto, if they are: (a) trespassers, squatters or agents of the defendants fraudulently occupying the property to frustrate the judgment; guests or other occupants of the premises with the permission of the defendant; (c) transferees *pendente lite;* (d) sub-lessees; (e) co-lessees; or (f) members of the family, relatives and other privies of the defendant. Thus, even if respondent were a resident of the property, a point disputed by the parties, she is nevertheless bound by the judgment of the MeTC in the action for ejectment despite her being a non-party thereto. Respondent is the daughter of the defendant in the action for ejectment. [Citations omitted.] [Justice Kapunan, First Division, Equitablet PCI Bank v. Ku, G.R. No. 142950, March 26, 2001]

Digest by R.B. Vera

Petron congratulates Luzon

PETRON
Rev, Raffle & Roll!

Panasonic 21" CTV

1. Angeles
-Benigno Tolentino
-Fred Lim
2. Baguio
-Leonardo Pilorin
-Florence Cita C. Yalong
3. Bataan
-Nestor A. Borja
-Edison C. Pablo
4. Bulacan
-A-Land Transport
-Eduardo C. Cruz
5. Cabanatuan
-Choy Alvarez
-Alicia A. Ordonia
6. Dagupan
-David T. Quidem
-Felix C. Palaganas
7. Isabela
-Francisco Gumiran
-Ester Busakay

Nokia 3330 Cellphone with SIM pack

1. Angeles
-Jose F. Caranto Jr.
-Herminio Dagpin
-Corazon Lapuz
2. Baguio
-Carlos Ancheta
-Roldan Quimao
-Joseph Corpuz
3. Bataan
-Mary Ann Quiba
-Ivy Sabino
-Herminio Salvador
4. Bulacan
-Dennis Gregorio
-Ruth De Vera
-Aldrin Romio
5. Cabanatuan
-Marciano F. Go
-Candido A. Sabaten
-Michael Siso
6. Dagupan
-Reynanto S. Garcia
-Florentino Ordona Jr.
-Elizalde S. De Vera
7. Isabela
-Melissa P. Ramones
-Amy S. Navarro
-Catherine L. Zingapan

Mesh Sunshade

1. Angeles
-Leonardo M. Nonan
-Glenda Bucasas
-Phan Thaus Hien
-Lanie Sigua
-Elmer Sicat
2. Baguio
-Eduardo Sabalbura
-Jack R. Mc Namara
-Jose Baldemor
-Jessica Johnny
-Patricio Abubo
3. Bataan
-A.S. Torres
-Melchor Quilon
-Roberto M. Bejasa
-Crisiano B. Enad
-Nelson Salcedo
4. Bulacan
-Roberto B. Reyes
-Virginia Semeriano
-Roberto T. De Guzman
-Leonilo Dela Cruz
-Raffy Herrera
5. Cabanatuan
-Sergio De Luna
-Noel Esmino
-Marita Tibus
-Guillermo Saturno
-Persival Siron
6. Dagupan
-Rolando L. Apostol
-Arlene Manzano
-Louie G. Fernandez
-Armando S. Mie
-Excelsa Sobrepena
7. Isabela
-Flordeliza Concepcion
-Isaac Dalit
-Abraham C. Tumalip
-Teofilo P. Dirain
-Emerenciana Collado

Maglite with Swiss Knife

1. Angeles
-Mary Jane Urguico
-Roberto Z. Romero
-Rudy P. Sapungay
-Mark Anthony Garganta
-Francisco Nogoy
2. Baguio
-Lucio Ridulfa
-Romeo Eliseo Ugalde
-Leodel De Lara
-Melanie Matutino
-Rome Benito
3. Bataan
-Palermo Labung
-Mario L. David
-Juliet Mallari
-Eufronio C. Lopez
-Nerisa Mendoza
4. Bulacan
-Jovito De Omono
-Jazelle Ann D. Olindo
-Jonathan Garcia
-Ruby Alcantara
-Tony Chua
5. Cabanatuan
-Felimon A. Mangabat
-Jennifer Y. Yu
-Gilbert B. Nalula
-Rolando N. Soriano
-Magtanggo B. Villanueva
6. Dagupan
-Susana R. Magno
-Vangie C. Amurao
-Alicia N. Ortaleza
-Camilo Imbisan
-Marichu S. Soldio
7. Isabela
-Danilo Balajadia
-Milna Y. Yu
-Fermina Cabasal
-Susan Bantig
-Nida A. Aquino

Warning Lamp

1. Angeles
-Carolina L. Castro
-Alex Narciso
-Gene Galura
-Arnaiz Macalino
-Felomina L. Miguel
2. Baguio
-Adonis Posadas
-Shead Paran
-Ayson Tulian
-Thata A. Balcita
-Elmer Paulino
3. Bataan
-Andres E. Ebuen
-Felix Cortez
-Nestor C. Bersamin
-Gemma Mariano
-Felipe Bernales
4. Bulacan
-Edmund R. Contreras
-Fortunata S. Sanchez
-Edgardo C. Bernardo
-Vicente Ildelfonso
-Belen Sanayno
5. Cabanatuan
-Reynaldo C. Marquez Jr.
-Noli Manuel
-Dante R. Aguilar
-Irma Fernandez
-Francisco L. Samaniego
6. Dagupan
-Edgar Doc Abrigo
-Felimon Padua
-Michellin R. Angeles
-Celzo E. Rivo
-Jessica C. Datario
7. Isabela
-Jaime Aczon
-Evangeline Payas
-Tito Ruma
-Pablo Corpuz
-Randy Magalay

Petron Lubricants and Specialties

1. Baguio
-Pepito Alvarez
-Domingo Bermudez
-Reynaldo M. Castillo
-Crispina Gammad
-Marcelino Mari
2. Bataan
-Elyzer Ortaleza
-Edwin Marcelino
-Virgilio Tiangco
-Ronald Damasin
-Marcing Guno
3. Bulacan
-Myrna M. Esguerra
-Ellen Gravador
-Conrado F. Dangilan
-Julton Patigas
-Norliza A. Mendoza
4. Cabanatuan
-Leonardo Piadoso
-Norberto Cordero Sr.
-Elizabeth B. Mampo
-Wilma W. Ongto
-Francisco Baquiran
5. Dagupan
-Rudy D. Juguiton
-Roberto O. Ramos
-Francis Alzando
-Teofilo Ferrer
-Lea Tamayo
6. Isabela
-Multi Gas Corp.
-Maria Egipito
-Emiliano Malana
-Rodel Fernandez
-Angelo D. Tapo

Congratulations to the winners of Petron's Rev, Raffle and Roll. If you didn't find your name on the list, you still have a chance to Rev, Raffle and Roll off with a brand new Toyota Revo and loads of other prizes. So keep gassing up at Petron. Promo is only up to November 3.

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0989, Series of 2001

winners from North to South.

PETRON
Kursunadang Kulay,
Libo-Libong Bigay
P
P

P100,000
1. Batangas
-Nene F. Fronda
2. Bicol
-Renato Tumala
3. Cavite
-Redemil Caparas
4. Laguna
-Laura Cabaluna
5. Quezon
-Mary Ann Espedilla

P55,000
1. Cavite
-Don Ian D. Espiritu
P50,000
1. Batangas
-Marlon Valdez
-Levi Cuba
2. Bicol
-Alvin Segundo
-Emily Valenzuela
3. Cavite
-Ramon O. Mendoza
4. Laguna
-Vicente Fernandico
-Jimmy C. Almazora
5. Palawan
-Victor Corpuz
6. Quezon
-Roderick Remo
-Wilfredo Tolentino
P40,000
1. Cavite
-Andrew Isaquire
P30,000
1. Batangas
-Nelson Morpi
-Liberato Bautista
-Allan Dela Paz
2. Bicol
-Eduardo Maravilla
3. Cavite
-Ronald Icaro
-Juliano R. Desingano
4. Laguna
-Gregorio Manuel
-Ferdinand Crisostomo
-Leonora Esteban
5. Quezon
-Anthony Garlan
-Catalino Roca
P25,000
1. Bicol
-Elestrio Coceres
2. Mindoro
-Marlon Gabayno
P20,000
1. Batangas
-Sir John B. Parto
-George Uy
2. Cavite
-Sanny Dacuna
-Alberto B. Javier
3. Laguna
-Eduardo Gomez
-Federico O. Mendoza
4. Palawan
-Myra Q. Macolor
-Sotero Cabesas
5. Quezon
-Rusula Bacuno
P16,000
1. Batangas
-Ramil C. Africa
P15,000
1. Bicol
-Elbert Matibay
2. Cavite
-Erickson Cortez
3. Mindoro
-Noel Carpio
-Rodel Flores
P10,000
1. Laguna
-Ben Agnagan
2. Palawan
-Roben Medina
-Alberto Magbanua
P8,000
1. Palawan
-Hilario F. Herman
P5,000
1. Mindoro
-Emmi Rose Tagala
-Noel Villaruel

P3,000
1. Mindoro
-Renato Angeles
P1,000
1. Batangas (27 winners)
-Erlito Fabula
-Jesus A. Alinas
-Nestor Dazo
-Quirino Umali
-Edwin Pasumbol
-Dexter Carcosia
-Norma N. Orzo
-Alex Corachea
-Apolinario J. Magpantay
-Rolando D. Padilla
-Danilo A. Manalo
-Armando Punzalan
-George Tolentino
-Richard Pabio
-Carlito Fetalcorin
-Florante Atienza
-Milagros F. Licop
-Allan B. Las
-Roman S. Abiao
-Rholan Florida
-Manuel S. Armamento
-Roberto C. Martinez
-Samuel dela Cerna
-Maurice N. Gatdula
-Fidel Dapat
-Hernandez Efren Jr.
-Lito B. Ronquillo
2. Bicol (50 winners)
-Fernando Gil
-Rodulfo Marchan
-Zenaida Lato
-Marvin Loria
-Ricardo Abion
-Roy Caramsan
-Rex Nasalita
-Rey Respicio
-Alex Selleza
-Salvador Camado
-Romeo Priela
-Patricio Almok
-Eliza Macawili
-Ermoc Villareal
-Angeles Resatacol
-Dio Villareal
-Melodia Blancada
-Eliazar Pameda
-Marissa Luzarraga
-Francis Borromeo
-Arnulfo Badoria
-Hazel Garchetorena
-Noel Sanchez
-Apeli Gutierez
-Romeo Dreo
-Ester Nieva
-Emilia Perillo
-Reyne Pedragosa
-Antonio Enguero Jr.
-Jaime Olbes Jr.
-Benedicto Imperial
-Teotimo Sto. Domingo
-Presentacion Cheryl
-Emelina Capoy
-Emma Rafallo
-Romeo Correa
-Arnulfo Rieza
-Juliet Begino
-Jessyl Hernandez
-Adonairam Teh
-Artaur Ofracio
-Jose Allan Salceda
-Eva Banzagulez
-Jesus Abarca
-Manuel Ermino
-Eliza Gutierez
-Lito Reamosio
-Jovencio Arimando
-Nelson Hizon
-Elma Bautista

3. Cavite (37 winners)
-Constancie Cubal
-Edilberto Cena
-Don Peser
-Digo, Henry B.
-RRC Enterprises
-Leopoldo S. Ortiz
-Noel John Bautista
-Roan O. Siwa
-John Sunon P. Ernie
-Roberto T. Enorasa
-Michelline R. Mendoza
-Isidor L. Javier
-Lanita G. Batino
-Josephine B. Antanzo
-Melanie Deniega
-Napoleon G. Vidallon
-Elsie Noble
-Jesuito Payot
-Rowena Estores
-Teodora Catolico
-Napoleon Pulanco
-Jose Marie Galang
-Rodric Madrid
-Ethelbert Tainsan
-Orlando Rivera
-Marlene Rodrin
-Franklin Suspeña
-L.R. Lizada
-Omar Monzon
-Alden Medina
-Reynaldo A. Valdez
-Hannah Naomi dela Cruz
-Emelito Loyola
-Vener Buhain
-Richard Yao
-John Bernard Neo
-Amelia Legaspi
4. Laguna (34 winners)
-Japer Del Valle
-Edel Martinez
-Ramil Rodrigo
-Faustino Francisco
-Normando Tioxen
-Ludivico O. Fule Jr.
-George Ortiz
-Bienvenido Montirro
-Hermy C. Allos
-Ernan Nequinto
-Francis Joy Aguila
-Alfredo Iporac
-Jemmelee Ocampo
-Francisco Beron
-Joan Antonio
-Rodolfo Pamilacan
-Lucena Duhay
-Lina Magadia
-Alexander B. Hugo
-Roberto Cao
-Jun Emillo
-Bebelyn B. Nival
-Romeo I. Joco
-Leonardo Aracena

-Ronald Esperanza
-Felima F. Astudillo
-Rolando Caldo
-Andrew J. Sta. Ana
-Vilma Azuk
-Guillermo Librero
-Conrado Robles
-Joemark Jana
-Orland Zuniga
-Angelito Mamalateo
5. Palawan (18 winners)
-Joel Gabua R.
-Nenita M. Cabungan
-Mary Grace Almaguerr
-Wilfredo Aldaya
-Joven Tajala
-Melchor Lomboy
-Welsing B. Mara-Mara
-Marcy A. Cariaso
-Lhaine Verbo
-Rafael Maestro
-Manalo Rubew
-Arnulfo Alayon
-Jessica Matulac
-Ofelia Corpin
-Nelson Pata
-Benigno Miraflores
-Elizabeth Monton
-Benjie Flor
6. Quezon (33 winners)
-Gemson Boongalang
-Joseph Rejumo
-Remely Veliganio
-Parile Buncayo
-Lourdes Anda
-Wilfredo Sario
-Rumolo Mancilla
-Dionnicio Geronda
-Reymundo Arpia
-Cesar Gonzales
-Rafael Hernandez
-Melita Medina
-Tomas Postrado
-Arnel Roadilla
-Liza Dioquino
-Enrique Figueroa
-Alfredo Magnaye
-Victor David
-Edelito Pornela
-Amelia Lim Coo
-Lorenza Ombao
-Vener Portinto
-Estrella Paleracio
-Rhoderick Laroza
-Minerva A. Pica
-Cris Asiman
-Rosalia Grapani
-Clemente Lucila
-Francis Zurbano
-Renato Umali
-Cristina Gasic
-Buena Leal
-Estelita La Rosa

P500
1. Batangas (27 winners)
-Expedito Pasimbal
-Ruel Laresma
-Francisco Maravilla
-Salvador Aala
-Emanuel Chan Lim
-Domingo Mercado
-Reynaldo delos Reyes
-Ma. Liza M. Miculob
-Antonio M. Castillo
-Celing Saludo
-Gelacio Dimapili
-Virgilio A. Ronsairo
-Rosendo Eloso Jr.
-Jose S. Perez Jr.
-Catalina R. Palnes
-Cecilia Guanzon
-Duneng Antenor
-Eduardo H. Bunggo
-Edison Napa
-Efren Javier
-Francisco Marquez
-Ariel Conocido
-Jeric Marasigan
-Ma. Lilibeth Gomez
-Primo C. Bathan
-James Brennan Aquino
-Reynaldo A. Guerra
2. Bicol (49 winners)
-Jenny Bansaga
-Anastacio Miranda Jr.
-Charlotte Barbara
-Ronaldo V. Castro
-Danilo Brocelango
-Lloyd Pineda
-Mila Z. Ason
-Lendon Ihusain
-Ronie Aguilar
-Joaquin Coreses
-Olivia Bermillo
-John Pip Mirabel
-Marilyn Andano
-Gil Dennis Raposa
-Flavio Sumayao Jr.
-Romulo E. Campo
-Ernie Molina
-Roberto Romero
-Renee Zantua
-Leonilo Bombita
-Maricel Villaranda
-Joan Elleran
-Narciso Marana
-Amador Basalyote
-Rosa Mangubat
-Julita Belleza
-Nelly Nasalita
-Nestor Randain Jr.
-Frank Bregala Jr.
-Jimmy Montejo
-Hildento Enego
-Rodrigo Brono Jr.
-Natalie Triumfante
-Prescila Manlangit

-Romeo Parale Jr.
-Arseo Hernandez
-Ceferina Pobre
-Jeffrey S. Lim
-Percival Agpawa
-Nelson Jadie
-Normelita Cabezudo
-Liwanag Chio
-Bernardo Buising
-Anita Peteza
-Vivian Abelligos
-Redentor Bayoca
-Higuro Goton
-Jaime T. Segundo
-Villamor Remienda
3. Laguna (34 winners)
-Nanding Betinio
-Rodel Villanueva
-Eduardo R. Lorenzo
-Quincy Montenola
-Gerry Benandiel
-Vladinier F. Samson
-Jocelyn De Leon
-Rod Duran
-Nicasio Carandang
-Romelito M. Dayo
-Rosario G. Nierra
-Teresita Valenzuela
-Roilan Leonardo
-Roni A. Reyes
-Tony Bautista
-Rey M. Narvadez
-Guillermo Ramirez
-Marianito Escapatoria
-Carlito Barayoga
-Romeo Baylon
-Bino Gaudencio
-Elipadio Balicanta
-Juliana Roldan
-Jeric Gomez
-Joey R. Zaquirbe
-Davy Apuada
-Feliciano Martinez
-Ronald Liwanag
-Bonifacio Gallardo
-Emiliano Gimutao
-Felix Aomiutado
-Benigno Mendoza
-Nestor Magana
-Robert Lede
4. Mindoro (14 winners)
-Leonardo Maligalig
-Amormio Violeta
-Peter Francisco
-Oscar Dela Pena
-Izzah Riel
-Rico Roxas
-Alex Samar
-Robelito Mabato
-Reaneil Candava
-Ramil Laoang
-Annaliza Camacho
-Joseph De San Jose
-Reyna Piquis
-Lorna Banal
5. Palawan (18 winners)
-Deogenes Gujilde
-Alipio Amora
-Pulaw Abubakar
-Melani D. Nolsol
-Pablo Garcia
-Rafael Eleazar
-Rio Dengal
-Criselda Bangalisan
-Darius Pelaqio
-Leticia Estrada
-Joseph Singson
-Ricardo Nunala
-Nena Domingo
-Ariel Galon
-Daniel Carmona
-Roberto Rabuya
-Jasher S. Opras
-Ryan Nolasco

6. Quezon (33 winners)
-Annie Anglo
-Rodel Aporta
-Joebelle Isidro
-Emily Dela Cruz
-Domingo Ogama
-Edgardo Toledo
-Salvador Aguila
-Chrys Rueris Laurel
-Cherry Macatangay
-Igmedio Merluza
-Venus Legaspi
-Wenria Balino
-Maximo Byran
-Ariel Deduro
-Celso Rodriguez
-Antonio Aborde
-Marissa Ortega
-Efren Parado Jr.
-Gregorio Pornobi
-Arceli Tan
-Danilo Kiac
-Vidal Maano
-Eduardo Uri
-Gilbert Marquez
-Elma Barela
-Angelito Magadia
-Gregorio Reyes
-Ma. Concepcion Marino
-Jonathan Mejia
-Divina De Chavez
-Rogelio Brion
-Sabina Romasanta
-Rommel Rivero
P400
1. Laguna (34 winners)
-Eferen Cometa
-Joselito Platon
-Ronald Platon
-Akairo Delos Reyes
-Ignacio Rigo
-Momca Abay-Abay
-Jasmine Ladislao
-Sandra Luisaga
-Jerilo Guevarra
-Alvin Zornosa
-Conrado Aripol
-Ric Flores
-Arnel Almarinez
-Ric Adato
-Jhun Casubuan
-John Kenneth Anonuevo
-Melanie C. Roda
-Primo Villanueva
-Elma Tolentino
-Dionisio Gonzales
-Ben Ricamora
-Teodoro Tolentino
-Dayo Ebreo
-Ronald Ventucillo
-Eddie Lorbis
-Rolando Oracion
-Rodolfo Gonzales
-Renante Cabids
-Bonifacio Gallardo
-Efren Salvador
-Manfred Ayura
-Linda G. Liynes
-Alex Flores
-Delarion L. Penomea
P300
1. Mindoro (14 winners)
-Rimando Alejandro
-Victor Silla
-Pablito Gutierez
-Gimalyn Faminialagao
-Gloria Dinglasan
-Alfredo Ortega Jr.
-Glenda G. Cabagay
-Jose C. Abranilla
-Lucila Mendoza
-Vicente Baval
-Noel Mendoza
-Leonila C. Caunca
-Emely Sandoval
-Maila C. Bernardo

Congratulations sa mga nanalo sa Kursunadang Kulay, Libo-Libong Bigay ng Petron. Isang libong pasasalamat sa inyong pagtatangkilik. Maari pa kayong manalo kaya gas up na sa Petron para may pang-gastos! Promo only up to October 31.

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0987, Series of 2001

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8	AMERICAN PIE 2
9	MANANABAS
10	AMERICA'S SWEETHEART
11	SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
12	FAST & FURIOUS

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2	SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
3	THE BODY
4	MANANABAS

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3	SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
4	DON'T SAY A WORD
5	MANANABAS
6	THE BODY
7	AMERICAN PIE 2
8	AMERICAN PIE 2
9	THE HOLE
10	13 DAYS
11	PRINCESS DIARIES
12	AMERICA'S SWEETHEART

SM SOUTHMALL
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1	AMERICA'S SWEETHEARTS
2	13 DAYS
3	AMERICAN PIE 2
4	MANANABAS
5	THE HOLE
6	DON'T SAY A WORD
7	CLOSED
8	THE BODY
9	SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
10	NAKED NIGHTS

SM GUADALUPE COMM'L
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1	SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
2	MANANABAS
3	NAKED NIGHTS

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2	ORIGINAL SIN
3	PRINCESS DIARIES
4	YOUNG WARLOCK
5	MARITAL RAPE
6	MANANABAS
7	FAST & FURIOUS

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1	SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
2	CLOSED
3	AMERICA'S SWEETHEARTS
4	MANANABAS
5	PRINCESS DIARIES
6	ORIGINAL SIN
7	CLOSED
8	SISID

SM PAMPANGA
7128015

1	13 DAYS
2	OSMOSIS JONES
3	AMERICA'S SWEETHEARTS
4	SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
5	MARITAL RAPE
6	MANANABAS

SM SUCAT
8294935

1	SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
2	AMERICAN PIE 2
3	MANANABAS
4	DON'T SAY A WORD

SM DAVAO

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3	AMERICAN PIE 2
4	THE BODY

GLORIETTA 4

1	THE BODY in DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
2	AMERICAN PIE 2 in DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
3	AMERICAN PIE 2 THX in DSD/SDDS/DTS DIGITAL SOUND
4	ABOUT ADAM (Exclusive Phil. Premiere) in DTS DIGITAL SOUND Art Film
5	AMERICA'S SWEETHEARTS in DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
6	DON'T SAY A WORD (Sneak Preview) in DTS/SDDS DIGITAL SOUND
7	THIRTEEN DAYS in DTS DIGITAL SOUND

GREENBELT

1	THE BODY in DOLBY STEREO DIGITAL SOUND
2	DON'T SAY A WORD (Sneak Preview) in SONY DYNAMIC DIGITAL SOUND
3	AMERICAN PIE 2 in DOLBY STEREO DIGITAL SOUND
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5 GOLD (DOLBY)	AMERICAN PIE 2
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7 GOLD (DOLBY)	THE BODY
8	SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
9	MANANABAS
10	NAKED NIGHTS

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4	
5	
6 (DTS)	
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3	THE BODY
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5	NAKED NIGHTS

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6	THE BODY
7	RESERVE
8	RESERVE

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2	RESERVE
3	RESERVE
4	RESERVE
5	RESERVE
6	NAKED NIGHTS
7 (DTS)	DON'T SAY A WORD
8 (SDDS)	AMERICAN PIE
9 (DOLBY)	THE BODY

Caloocan
tel 362.3508

2	MANANABAS

Grand Central
(Caloocan) tel 364.3781

1	SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
2	MANANABAS
3	MANANABAS
4 (SDDS)	DON'T SAY A WORD
5	NAKED NIGHT
6 (DOLBY)	EXTREME FORCE
7 (DTS)	AMERICAN PIE 2
8	
9	

Commonwealth
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1 (DTS)	AMERICAN PIE 2
2	MANANABAS
3	NAKED NIGHTS
4	RESERVE
5 (SDDS)	DON'T SAY A WORD
6	SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
7 (DOLBY)	RESERVE
8	RESERVE

Ortigas
tel 656.6795

1	MANANABAS
2	NAKED NIGHTS
3 (DTS)	AMERICAN PIE 2
4	DON'T SAY A WORD
5 (SDDS)	RESERVE

Universal
(Manila) tel 733.2470

1	MANANABAS

Sampaguita
(Cubao) tel 911.7888

1	MANANABAS

Dilson
(Manila) tel 734.7724

Dilson	SIN OF THE NIGHT
Lords	NAKED NIGHTS
Jennet	

MARKETPLACE Mandaluyong
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1	DON'T SAY A WORD
2	MANANABAS
3	NAKED NIGHTS

Prima
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3	MANANABAS

Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto
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1 (DOLBY)	MANANABAS
2	DON'T SAY A WORD
3	NAKED NIGHTS
4	AMERICAN PIE 2
5	SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO

New Divisoria Mall
DIVISORIA CINEMA
tel 244.4619

1	NAKED NIGHTS
2	MANANABAS
3	DON'T SAY A WORD
4	RESERVE
5	RESERVE
6	RESERVE

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LRT CINEMA
tel 512.0115

1 (DOLBY)	
2	MANANABAS
3	NAKED NIGHTS

Berma
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1	MANANABAS
2	NAKED NIGHTS

CitiMall
(Parañaque) tel 820.7269

1	MANANABAS
2	NAKED NIGHTS
3	
4	

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Target Mall
(Sta. Rosa Laguna)
tel (049) 534.2185 / 534.2198

1	MANANABAS
2	DON'T SAY A WORD
3 (DTS)	AMERICAN PIE 2

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1	MANANABAS
2 (DTS)	DON'T SAY A WORD
3 (DOLBY)	AMERICAN PIE 2
4	NAKED NIGHTS

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel (049) 411.1146

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2 (DOLBY)	AMERICAN PIE 2
3 (DTS)	DON'T SAY A WORD
4	SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO

Cinemagix
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1	PRINCESS DIARIES
2	SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
3	SOON TO OPEN
4	SOON TO OPEN

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 (SDDS)	MANANABAS
2	NAKED NIGHTS
3	SEX MEDUSA
4 (DTS)	DON'T SAY A WORD

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 (DOLBY)	AMERICAN PIE 2
2	MANANABAS
3 (DTS)	DON'T SAY A WORD
4	NAKED NIGHTS
5	SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO

Olivarez Tri-Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883

1	MANANABAS
2	AMERICAN PIE 2
3	DON'T SAY A WORD

Olivarez Los Baños
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1	MANANABAS
2	AMERICAN PIE 2
3	NAKED NIGHTS

Olivarez Tagaytay
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1	ST. FRANCISVILLE
2	SISID
3	OSMOSIS JONES

Morales Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.9736

1	OSMOSIS JONES
2	MANANABAS
3	SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO

Cabuyao
(Laguna City) tel (049) 531.4808

1 (DTS)	MANANABAS
2 (DTS)	NAKED NIGHTS

Fourstep
(Cavite) tel (046) 416.2385

1	RESERVE

Emperor
(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657

1	SISID
2	MANANABAS
3	SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1	MARITAL RAPE
2	PRINCESS DIARIES
3	SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
4	SISID

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03

1 (DOLBY EX)	MARITAL RAPE
2	SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
3	RESERVE
4 (DTS EX)	THE HOLE

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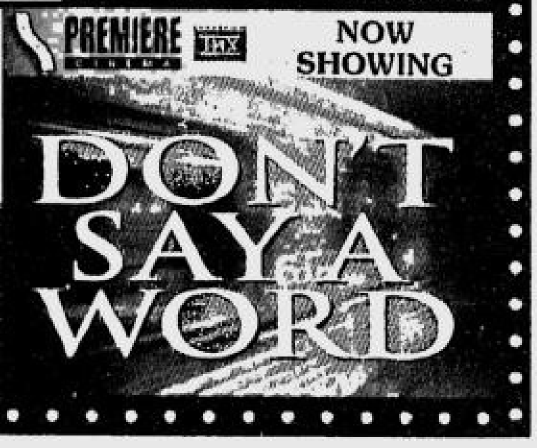

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8	SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
9	MANANABAS
10	NAKED NIGHTS

ERMITA
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1	AMERICAN PIE 2
2	EXTREME FORCE
3	13 DAYS
4	MANANABAS
5	SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
6	AMERICA'S SWEETHEARTS
7	THE BODY

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1	RESERVE
2	MANANABAS
3	NAKED NIGHTS
4	MANANABAS
5	AMERICAN PIE 2
6	RESERVE
7	AMERICAN PIE 2
8	THE BODY

IMUS
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1	AMERICAN PIE 2
2	13 DAYS
3	SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
4	THE BODY
5	MANANABAS
6	NAKED NIGHTS

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1	AMERICA'S SWEETHEART
2	PRINCESS DIARIES
3	ORIGINAL SIN
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6	LAST ERUPTIONS

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THX dts SDDS DOLBY DOLBY STEREO

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ARANETA CENTER THEATERS 911-3101	
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-1	SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-2	MANANABAS
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-3 (DDS)	13 DAYS
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS)	AMERICAN PIE
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS)	AMERICA'S SWEETHEART
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	EXTREME FORCE
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7(DOLBY)	THE HOLE
FARMERS PLAZA-1(DOLBY)	NAKED NIGHTS
FARMERS PLAZA-2(DOLBY)	MANANABAS
FIESTA CARNIVAL	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
NEW FRONTIER	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	VENUS / FEMALE ANIMAL
ODEON	MANANABAS
ODEON-2	SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
ROBEN	NAKED NIGHTS
TANDEM-1	SEX MEDUSA
TANDEM-2	SEX EDUCATION
TIMES	SCREAM . . . FRIDAY THE 13TH / DR. DOOLITTLE
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	CLOSED
ACT-4	CLOSED
CORONET-2	ORIGINAL SIN
QUEZON-1	NAKED NIGHTS
REMAR	MANANABAS
REMAR-2	NAKED NIGHTS
NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA	
A	MANANABAS
B	NAKED NIGHT
C	
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	CINE EUROPA 4
CINEMA-2	AMERICAN PIE 2
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	SISID
CINEMA-2	NAKED NIGHTS
CINEMA-3	THE HOLE
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	MANANABAS
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	13 DAYS
CINEMA-6	MARITAL RAPE
CINEMA-7	LA VIDA ROSA
CINEMA-8	FAST & FURIOUS
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	AMERICAN PIE 2
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	AMERICAN PIE 2
CINEMA-11(SDDS)	AMERICA'S SWEETHEARTS
CINEMA-12	THE BODY
CINEMA-14	MANANABAS
CINEMA-15	SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
LORES	
CINEMA-2	CLOSED
CINEMA-3	CLOSED
POWER PLANT CINEMA	
CINEMA-1	THE BODY
CINEMA-2	DON'T SAY A WORD
CINEMA-3	AMERICAN PIE 2
CINEMA-4	AMERICA'S SWEETHEARTS
CINEMA-5	THIRTEEN DAYS
CINEMA-6	AMERICAN PIE 2
UNIWIDE METROMALL	
(LAS PIÑAS)	
CINEMA-1	
CINEMA-2	
CINEMA-4	
UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARAÑAQUE)	
CINEMA-1	VENUS
CINEMA-2	VENGADOR
CINEMA-4	MAGDALENO ORBOS

MORENO. New image model of Wacky Clothing Studio

LJ goes on promo tour

LJ Moreno is one of the new image models of Wacky Clothing Studio's "Get Into the Fun of Life" campaign. She signed up with "Tabing Ilog" cast Kaye Abad, Desiree del Valle, Baron Geisler and rap artist Carlos Agassi.

LJ grew up in the US and had a liberal upbringing which is evident in the kind of sport activities she prefers. She enjoys motocross racing, karate, football and even skydiving.

"I'm very adventurous and I have a carefree attitude, so I truly enjoy extreme sports," says LJ. "It gives me a really great adrenaline rush."

LJ, who is the niece of actress Alma Moreno, caught the eye of talent manager Douglas Quijano when she came out in a TV commercial five years ago. Since then, LJ has done several movies and has been a mainstay of such TV shows as "Gimik" and "Del Tierro" on ABS-CBN. She is now part of the cast of GMA 7's "Kool Ka Lang."

Aside from being busy with her career, LJ is also actively promoting Wacky Clothing Studio.

On Oct. 26, LJ will be at the CSI Lucao Mall in Dagupan, Pangasinan for Wacky's "Get Into the Fun of Life" nationwide tour.

The event starts with a motorcade around the city at 3 p.m. A free concert follows at the CSI Lucao Mall, where fans can catch LJ perform. She will also treat the crowd to an autograph signing and photo session after the show.

Get a chance to win special giveaways with every purchase of Wacky Clothing Studio's T-shirts during the event.

Two-night concert

TWO of the country's seasoned vocalists join music forces for two nights of melodic bliss in "The Swingin's Mutual," Oct. 23 and 30 at Monk's Dream, Jupiter st., Makati City.

The duo, Richard Merk and Mon David, will be joined on Oct. 23 by guest soprano sax artist/vocalist Mel Villena. On Oct. 23, Brazilian music genius Miguel Juteau will share the stage with the two artists.

In the concert, Richard and Mon will pay tribute to their music idols such as Tony Bennett, Frank Sinatra, Nat King Cole and Sammy Davis Jr.

They will be joined by keyboardist Rey Cristobal who is also the show's musical director, drummer Mar Dizon, saxophonist Tots Tolentino and bassist Roger Herrera.

MERCK

Boob-tube booboos

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

HOST: Do you believe in the necessity of birth control to assure a better life for our children?

Guest: I believe we have to practice birth control, either natural or unnatural!

(That's artificial, sir. "Unnatural," sounds so—unnatural!)

* * *

Host: What can be done to lessen the hysteria over the anthrax scare?

Guest: There have to be clearer criteria for detection, control and cure coming from the Department Hotel.

(Department Hotel?—Oh, you mean Department of Health!)

* * *

Host: How can you confirm that the victim was raped?

Police officer: *Ayon sa* report *ng* examining doctor, the hymen was damaged in the three o'clock and seven o'clock position of the . . . clock.

(Huh?!)

* * *

Host: Is the dish you are preparing almost finished? The steps seem to be specially long and complicated.

Guest chef: It's because it's really a special dish, for a special occasion. But don't be impatient, it's finished! And now, for the unveiling—viola!

(*Ay*, viola!)

* * *

Host: I hear you have set up a new investigation arm in your department. What will this new watchdog group do?

Guest: It will make our investigations into anomalies more scientific, and in general, it will professionize our investigations.

(*Ay*, professionize . . .)

* * *

Host: Everybody is so stressed and worried these days. What can you advice them to do to relieve the stress and fear they feel?

Guest: It's a matter of perspective, of context. Aside from the tragedy in New York and the war in Afghanistan, everything seems to be normal.

(That's a huge "aside from"!)

* * *

Host: Our special guest tonight is a rising star of movies and TV.

Cohost: He's handsome and particularly promising as an actor.

Host: Yes! So, ladies and gentlemen, please meet one of the most excited young actors in the country today!

(No, he's exciting, it's the viewers who are supposed to get all excited about him!)

* * *

Host: I hear your organization is honoring some people this year?

Guest: Yes, we have some special awardees.

Host: And how are you planning to honor them?

Guest: We will have a special awarding ceremony, during which the awardees will be given special plagues of appreciation.

(Those "plagues," they surely won't appreciate!)

TV treats

ON THE National Geographic Channel: Friday, Oct. 26, "Human Edge" is on the so-called eighth wonder of the world, retired songwriter and producer **Tim Smit**'s Eden Project, the world's largest plant conservatory. Learn how botanists are gaining new insights into plant life through this groundbreaking project.

And travel to Italy, where car designer **Roberto Piatto** presents an amazing prototype that is about to spearhead a revolution in automobile design.

Sunday, Oct. 28 at 8 p.m., tour the world in search of innovation with "Hands On." This episode looks at ways to bring electric power to remote locales: A solar electrification program in South Africa; an experimental wind turbine in Sri Lanka; animal waste converted into biogas in Nepal; and waste from the paper pulp industry becomes bio-mass to heat hotels in Austria.

'Keep on Dancing' last telecast Oct. 27

DOLLYWOOD

Dolly Anne Carvajal

CHARLENE Gonzales has taken a maternity leave from her hosting chores on "Keep on Dancing," but it looks like it's not just a temporary thing. We heard that KOD will be having its last telecast on Saturday, Oct 27.

As Mrs. **Aga Muhlach** and a mother-to-be, Charls may have outgrown her dance show and is saving the last dance for Aga.

Charlene fanatics need not fret, though. Early next year the Dance Empress will resurface in a new show, most likely in another network. Only ace choreographer **Maribeth Bichara** and her dancers will be joining Charlene.

Since **Franco Laurel** will be out of the picture, maybe he and his wife **Ayen** can focus on their plan to have a baby next year.

As for **Troy Montero**, with more time on his hands he just might give some serious thought to marrying girlfriend **Nikki Valdez**.

Dingdong Dantes 'denial king'

I'VE had personal encounters with denial kings in the biz. I dare not refresh my memory and name them here. I assume you know who are the ones I'm referring to. I've reached a point where my brain waves deny access to denial kings from my colorful past. Let's leave it at that.

That's why I can't help but feel for other girls who are victimized by denial kings. Take the case of **Dingdong Dantes** and his official(?) girlfriend **Chinna Jocson.**

Dingdong had the audacity to lie through his teeth when a TV show's crew asked him about Chinna, who was with him the night he was interviewed. He said, "I kinda know her."

One of their common friends could not help but react so he reprimanded Dingdong: "What? You barely know her?" Dingdong retorted. "Oh, show biz. Whatever happens, deny deny, deny."

But when it was Chinna's turn to be interviewed she sort of admitted that there's really something going on between them. This reportedly led to a fight between them because he gave her stern instructions not to tell the truth.

What's with Dingdong? He shows off Chinna in public. They were last spotted at the championship game of Ateneo and DLSU at the Big Dome last week.

He probably wants to maintain a clean image so as not to ruin his love team with **Antoinette Taus**, who seems to be blindly in love with him. When he visits Toni in the US, Dingdong always treats Toni's mom to dinner. Saving face, or assuaging his guilt? If he feels guilty at all.

Boy's surprise

BOY Abunda is one talk show host who has successfully bridged the gap between interviewing show biz stars and political figures. I don't know how he does it but he sure does it so well.

And he refuses to rest on his laurels. Come November prepare yourself for Boy's TV special that's a first in Philippine television. I am more than delighted to be part of his team. We are now in the homestretch preparing for the telecast.

Suffice it to say that the show will set a new standard in local talk shows. Beware copious copycats!

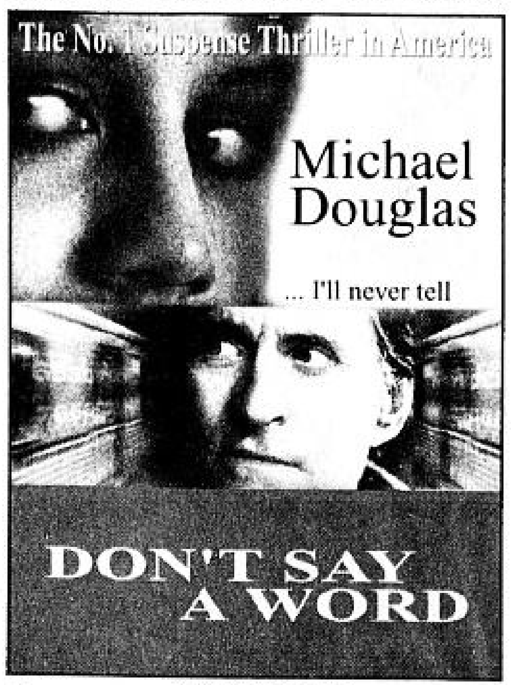
This early, allow me to congratulate my dear friend Boy for always, always outdoing himself!

Personal

THANKS, Rico Baby, for loving me enough to forgive my stupid boo-boos. *Te voglio bene!*

Mille grazie to **Lily** and **Henry Uy** of Wild Green Café on T. Morato for their warmth and generosity. Your café will always be *numero uno* with me.

For feedback, e-mail *wateringhole 2000 @yahoo.com*



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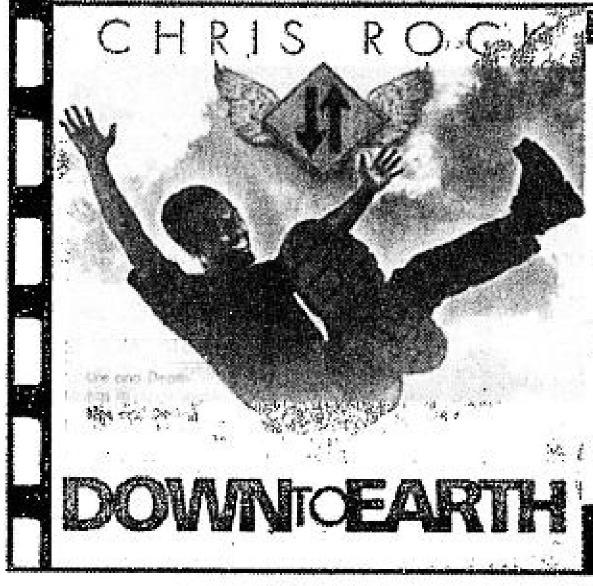
DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX
THE BODY - P 13
12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00
DON'T SAY A WORD - P 13
12:10, 2:35, 5:00, 7:25, 9:50
AMERICAN PIE 2 - R 18
12:30, 2:40, 4:50, 7:00, 9:10
AMERICA'S SWEETHEARTS - P 13
12:00, 2:20, 4:40, 7:00, 9:30
THIRTEEN DAYS - P 13
12:40, 3:40, 6:40, 9:40
AMERICAN PIE 2 - R 18
11:20, 1:30, 3:40, 5:50, 8:00, 10:10
Matinee, P80, Mon.-Fri.,11:00 am to 4:45 pm Screenings, Free Seating.



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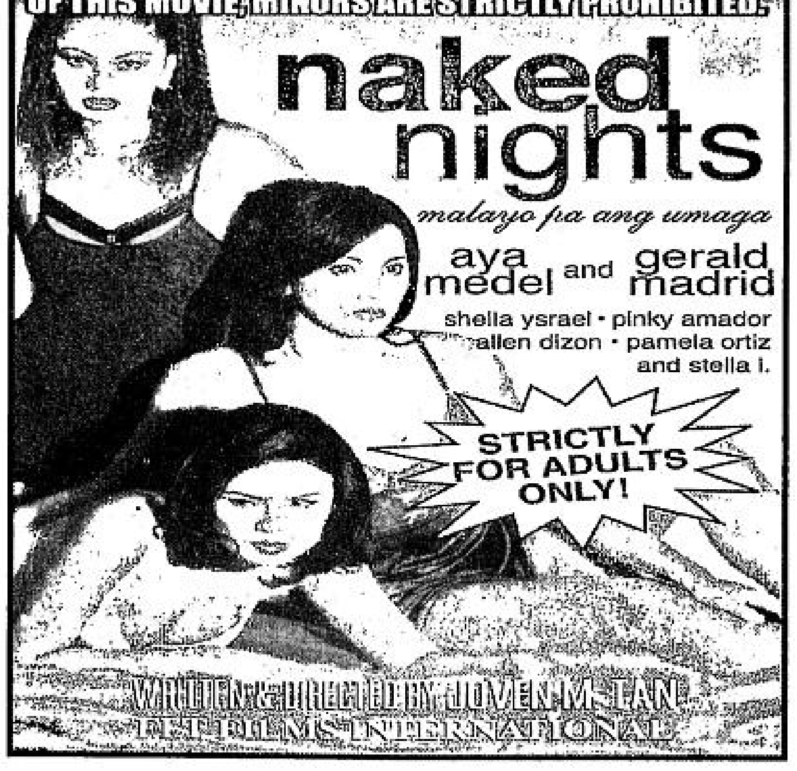
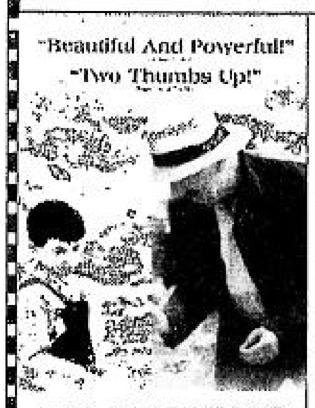


naked nights
malayo pa ang umaga
aya medel and gerald madrid
sheila ysrael • pinky amador
allen dizon • pamela ortiz
and stella i.
STRICTLY FOR ADULTS ONLY!
WRITTEN & DIRECTED BY JOVEN M. TAN
FLT FILMS INTERNATIONAL



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NEXT ATTRACTION
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BUTTERFLY'S TONGUE
PHILIPPINE PREMIERE
The Best Film About The Impact of The Spanish War @ ARTFILM - Glorietta 4
In the tradition of "Cinema Paradiso," BUTTERFLY'S TONGUE explores the extraordinary relationship between a shy young boy, Moncho, and his incredibly compassionate teacher, Don Gregorio, who teaches Moncho to find his way in a world that is increasingly frightening. When the Spanish Civil war breaks out on July 18, 1936, everything for the boy and his hero will unexpectedly change.
BUTTERFLY'S TONGUE stars the Spanish legend FERNANDO FERNAN GOMEZ who has a career that spans five decades as an actor, novelist, poet, and director. In 1998, he won the Goya (Spanish Oscar) for Best Lead Actor for his latest film "The Grandfather." The film also stars MANUEL LOZANO, UXIA BLANCO, GONZALO MARTIN URIARTE, ALEXIS de los SANTOS and GUILLERMO TOLEDO. The film won Best Film at the Cleveland International Film Festival & Best Screenplay at the Goya Awards.
Directed by JOSÉ LUIS CUERDA and written by RAFAEL AZCONA, BUTTERFLY'S TONGUE is based upon the MANUEL RIVAS novel Que Me Quieres, Amor?.
Language: Spanish with English subtitles

OPENS OCTOBER 24!
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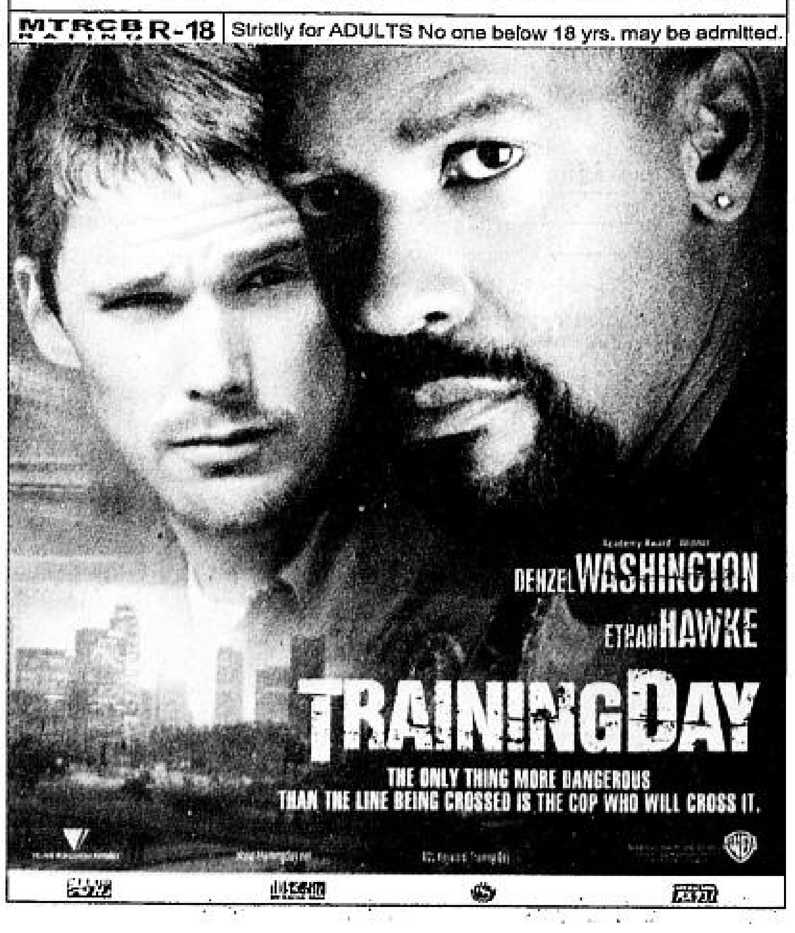

DENZEL WASHINGTON
ETHAN HAWKE
TRAINING DAY
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OPENS OCTOBER 24!
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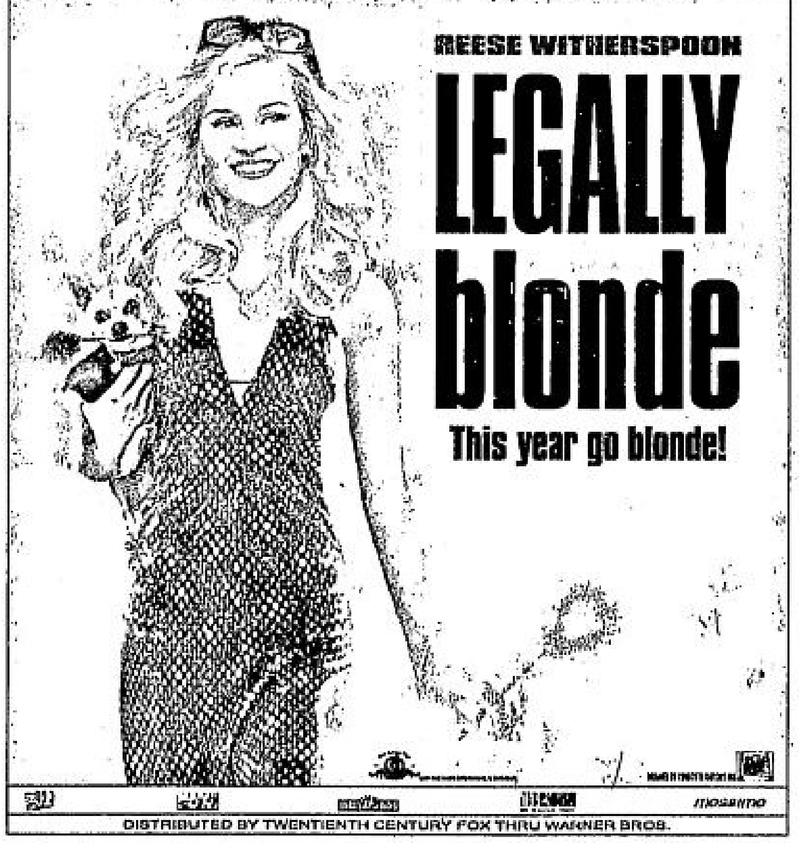

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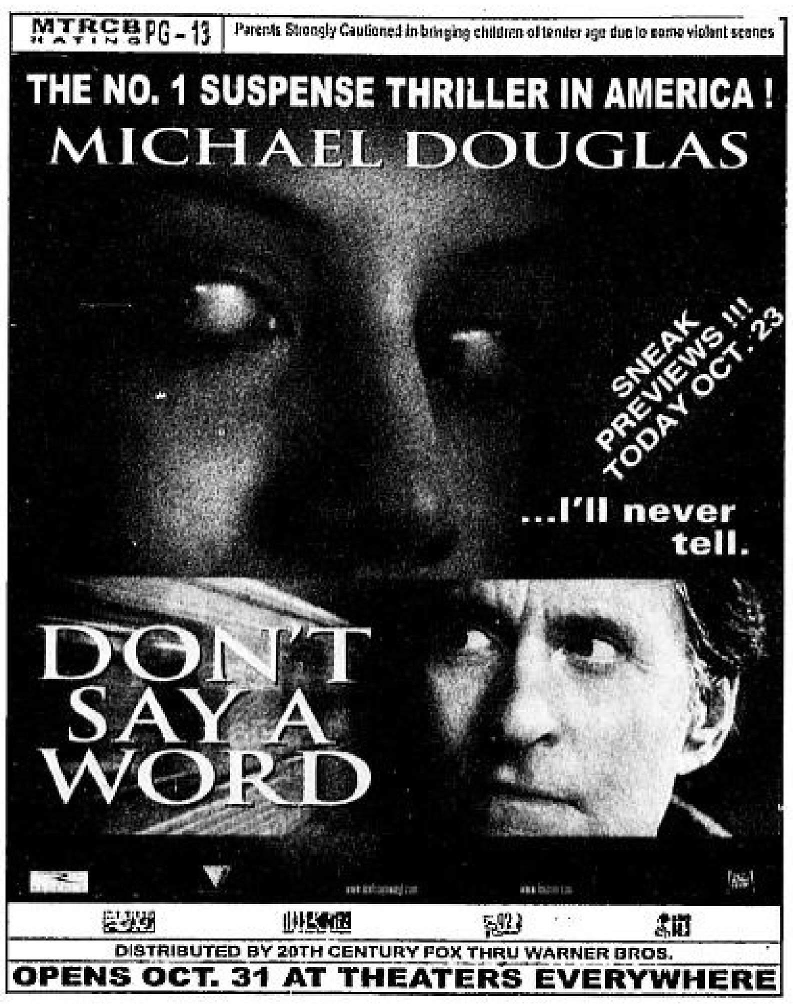

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ENTERTAINMENT

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

CUNETA. Duets with Hong Kong music superstar Andy Lau in her new album.

BMG serves Hotdog with different flavors

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Leah Salterio

A NEW album that gathers members of the popular Hotdog band is rather far-fetched at this time when the band had long disbanded. So the next best thing is to make top bands record the classic Hotdog hits in one album.

That is exactly what "Bandang Pinoy, Lasang Hotdog" is, an album of Hotdog songs performed by leading bands.

Hotdog lead vocalist and songwriter **Rene Garcia** said the idea was first brought up by his sister, **Susan**, who used to manage the band.

Even before "Bandang Pinoy, Lasang Hotdog" was released by BMG Records Pilipinas, other artists had already revived Hotdog's songs. **Donna Cruz** recorded "Langit na Naman." **Vina Morales** sang "Pers Lab" and Aquarella performed "Oh Lumapit Ka."

In "Bandang Pinoy, Lasang Hotdog," Eraserheads sings "Manila," Barbie's Cradle interprets "Langit na Naman," **Cookie Chua** belts out "Pers Lab," Parokya ni Edgar dishes out "Beh Buti Nga" and True Faith carries out "Ikaw ang Miss Universe."

"Eraserheads sang 'Manila' a la Beatles," Rene notes. "'Annie Batungbakal' has a different remix by my nephew **Toti Dalmacion.**

"The guitarist of Brownbeat All Stars played a minor note on what was supposed to be a major note. But save for that, I'm very honored that the bands agreed to record our songs."

Today, Hotdog songs have become staple in the repertoire of most bands doing nightly gigs.

Rene attributes the popularity of Hotdog tunes to the infectious rhythm and lyrics that are easy to remember.

"Perhaps that's why even the younger generation know our tunes," he says.

Hotdog recently performed in Los Angeles, New York and Washington. **Giselle Toengi** joined the bank in Washington.

Rene expresses his desire to do a major concert in Manila featuring the bands that have recorded Hotdog's hits.

The original Hotdog members are now busy with their respective jobs. Rene writes commercial jingles and works on movie soundtracks, including "Booba" with **Rufa Mae Quinto** and "Baliktaran" also with Rufa Mae and **Bayani Agbayani.**

His brother **Dennis** is the executive creative director of ad agency Foot, Cone and Belding, while other brother **Jess** is vice president for marketing and advertising of Philippine Airlines.

Mazo Diez is with a new band, Spirit of '67, and **Lorrie Illustre** continues to make hay as musical director.

Zsa Zsa Padilla is also an original Hotdog member who joined the band on the soundtrack of the **Nora Aunor** starrer, "Annie Batungbakal." Zsa Zsa also recorded "Careful, Careful," which was used as the theme of **Inday Badiday**'s now-defunct program, "See True."

Sharon signs up with BMG

SHARON Cuneta is now part of the BMG Records family. Her debut album for BMG, "All I Ever Want," which features 11 original compositions, is released today.

The album is produced by **Ryan Cayabyab**, who also wrote seven songs, including the title track, "All I Ever Want."

Pianist-composer **Jim Brickman** contributed a cut, "Where's the Good in Goodbye," which will be the album's carrier single.

"We are proud to have Sharon in our roster of artists," says BMG Records artist and repertoire director **Vic Valenciano.**

Sharon was only 12 when her single "Mr. DJ" became a big hit and signaled the start of her meteoric rise in show biz.

To date, she has recorded 20 albums, the latest of which was "Nothing I Want More."

Her BMG album also contains her duet with Hong Kong music superstar **Andy Lau**, "In Your Eyes," another Brickman composition.

Martin in Lea's concert

HER own countrymen will get to see more of **Lea Salonga** next year when she promises to be more visible in Manila. She is set to start in a straight play for Atlantis Productions, "Proof," to be directed by **Bobby Garcia.**

She will also do a two-night concert at the PICC in February. We heard that **Martin Nievera** would be her special guest.

Martin first asked Lea to be his guest in his birthday concert also in February. We were told that before she said yes, Lea bargained for Martin to also be a guest in her own two-night concert.

Lea and Martin earlier shared the stage in "The Best of Manila" concert at the Westin Philippine Plaza Ballroom middle of last year. The show also featured other top-notch artists such as **Gary Valenciano, Jaya, Zsa Zsa Padilla, Joey Generoso** and soprano **Andion Fernandez.** Ryan Cayabyab and **Louie Ocampo** led the orchestra as musical directors.

Raffle draw winners

COME November, two lucky Filipinos will get to see Lea in "Flower Drum Song" when Bayo, the garment line she is endorsing, brings the winners of its raffle draw to L.A.

We were told that Lea had just renewed her Bayo contract for another year. Her TV commercial for the garment line will come out later this month.

Although Lea's talent fee for endorsing Bayo remains undisclosed, the garment line has reportedly registered higher sales when Lea became its image model.

Latest recruit

LUCHI Cruz Valdez is the latest recruit of ABS-CBN from GMA 7. Luchi's resignation was announced Friday night in a meeting of the GMA news team.

At ABS-CBN, Luchi will join the news and current affairs department. However, her transfer is reportedly not welcomed by some ABS-CBN insiders. But wasn't **Karen Davila** also met with raised eyebrows when she moved to ABS-CBN? Yet, Karen was able to adjust in no time and win the respect of her peers in her new home. Hopefully, the same thing will happen to Luchi.

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OCTOBER 23, 2001

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

BUSINESS

RAUL O. MARCELO, Editor ▪ CORRIE S. NARISMA, Assistant Editor

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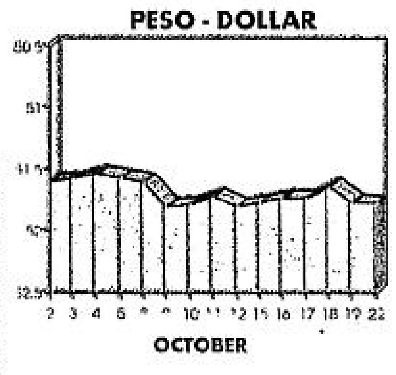
91-day T-bill nears double-digit levels

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES



Peso-Dollar Rate

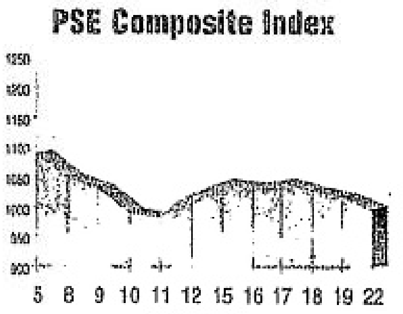
₱51.775 = $1
As of 5 p.m.,
Oct. 22, 2001

¥121.59 = $1
As of 5 p.m.,
Oct. 22, 2001

GOLD:$278.20/278.70
per ounce Hong Kong,
Oct. 22, 2001

STOCK MARKET

Shares down



(See stock market report on Page B2)

SHARES yesterday closed down in very thin volume—although off its intra-day lows—to rest just above the key 1,000 psychological support in the main index with lingering worries about the global and domestic economies.

Most banks, led by Bank of the Philippine Islands (BPI), fell after the country's largest vehicle battery maker Ramcar was reported to have defaulted on its P8-billion debt to local and foreign banks.

The Philippine stock index lost 18.34 points or 1.8 percent to end at 1001.10 points, recovering from its intra-day low of 996.89 points.

The market was likely to test its 10-year intra-day low of 982 points, recorded about two weeks ago, in the coming days, traders said.

"Volumes are so thin so you get exaggerated movements. The market tested the 1,000 level . . . There was no major worrisome factor, except Ramcar," said Allan Araullo, vice president of Regina Capital Development Corp.

Henry Ong, vice president for sales of KGI Securities said Ramcar's debt problems would increase the non-performing loans of the banking industry and BPI in particular.

Turnover climbed to P251.52 million from Friday's P200.22 million but still lower than the weekly average of about P300 million to P400 million, traders said.

Losers were in a two-to-one majority over gainers. *Reuters*

Baguio plans ₱250-M bond float

BAGUIO City—The city government is firming up a P250-million maiden bond float before the year's end to raise fresh funds for the infrastructure needs of the country's summer capital.

In a briefing Saturday, Baguio City mayor Bernardo Vergara said the city, which aims to be the business capital of Northern Luzon, was working with the Local Government Unit (LGU) Guarantee Corp. for the new borrowing facility.

Proceeds from the bond issue will be used to construct underground parking facilities to ease the worsening traffic condition in the city, he said.

"I hope we can do it within the year," Vergara said, noting that the bond issue, the first to be issued by Baguio City, would be guaranteed by state-controlled Bases Conversion Development Authority.

The new borrowing will be in the form of asset-backed securities maturing between seven and10 years. The assets to be pooled will consist of the city government's share from the fees being remitted by Camp John Hay Development Corp.

Vergara said around 21 banks have signified interest to subscribe to the bond issue as the securities were eligible as compliance to the agri-agra lending rule.

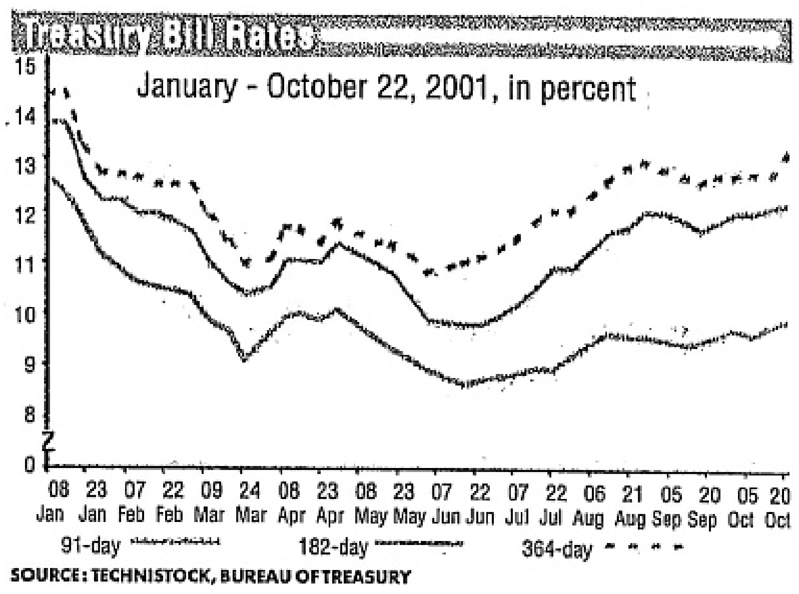
Existing laws require banks to earmark 25 percent of their loan portfolio to agriculture and agrarian-related projects.

CURRENCIES

Oct. 22, 2001

Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.112347	1.000000	51.7120
Japan	Yen	0.009181	0.008254	0.4268
United Kingdom	Pound	1.596329	1.435100	74.2119
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.142792	0.128370	6.6383
Switzerland	Franc	0.677310	0.608902	31.4875
Canada	Dollar	0.706162	0.634840	32.8288
Singapore	Dollar	0.610508	0.548847	28.3820
Australia	Dollar	0.564643	0.507614	26.2497
Bahrain	Dinar	2.950680	2.652661	137.1744
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.296626	0.266667	13.7899
Brunei	Dollar	0.610174	0.548546	28.3664
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000110	0.000099	0.0051
Thailand	Baht	0.024868	0.022356	1.1561
UAE	Dirham	0.302927	0.272331	14.0828
Korea	Won	0.000858	0.000771	0.0399
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.899000	46.4891
Germany	Mark	0.511291	0.459651	23.7695
France	Franc	0.152450	0.137052	7.0872
Netherlands	Guilder	0.453780	0.407948	21.0958
Austria	Schilling	0.072673	0.065333	3.3785
Belgium	Franc	0.024790	0.022286	1.1525
Italy	Lire	0.000516	0.000464	0.0240
Finland	Markka	0.168188	0.151201	7.8189
Portugal	Escudo	0.004988	0.004484	0.2319
Spain	Peseta	0.006010	0.005403	0.2794
Luxemburg	Franc	0.024790	0.022286	1.1525
Ireland	Punt	1.269739	1.141495	59.0290

BY CLARISSA S. BATINO



SOURCE: TECHNISTOCK, BUREAU OF TREASURY

THE BENCHMARK 91-day Treasury bill rate hovered close to double-digit levels, rising 11.5 basis points to 9.918 percent in yesterday's trading.

Yields on longer-term notes likewise rose significantly as the fixed income market continued to worry about the government's ability to contain its budget deficit within the ceiling.

The six-month T-bill yield was up 12.5 basis points to 12.179 percent while the one-year notes rose 30.5 basis points to 13.062 percent.

National Treasurer Sergio Edeza said the auction committee accepted the higher bids and awarded all tenors as the tenders reached P7 billion, which indicated that the rates were a consensus of an apprehensive market.

He said the committee had planned to reject the bids for the one-year notes but decided against it as total tenders reached P3.3 billion when the increase in the yield was not as significant as the previous week.

"We decided to accept the bids because the volume was huge. The uncertainty in the market was reflected in the rates. These are not normal times," said Edeza adding that the fixed-income market "acts like crazy" during abnormal times.

Edeza said that only a significant cut in the US Fed rates and local rates could possibly avert a rising trend in Treasury bill yields.

"The central bank needs to bring down its overnight rates to 8 percent for the reduction to have an impact on the interest rates," said the treasurer.

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Rafael Buenaventura said the central bank would have room for another 25 basis points cut in its policy rates if the US Fed cuts its rates by 50 points in the first week of November and if the government will be able to tame the inflation

The benchmark 91-day T-bill is used by banks as basis in pricing their loans. It used to track the central bank's policy rates that currently stand at 8.75 percent and 11 percent for overnight borrowing and lending.

Edeza said the market was no longer pre-occupied with the movement of the BSP's policy rates. He said it was now looking at other factors, including the worsening global economic condition, in determining their bids for the T-bills.

"The planned cut (in policy rates) by the BSP is too small for rates to drop. It is no longer a big factor in determining treasury bill rates," said the national treasurer.

Edeza did not sound averse to the idea that the benchmark treasury rate would hit double-digit levels

91-DAY/ B2

Debt stock up 16.58% to ₱2.296T

THE ADMINISTRATION'S borrowing binge in the domestic market coupled by the deterioration of the peso against the US dollar have pushed the country's debt stock up by 16.58 percent in the first seven months of the year to P2.296 trillion from its level a year ago.

Data from the Bureau of Treasury showed that the national government's debt swelled by P36 billion or by 1.6 percent as of July from P1.995 trillion in end-June.

National Treasurer Sergio Edeza said the increase in the country's debt stock reflected the government's aggressive borrowing stance and the significant weakening of the peso.

The debt stock reported by the Bureau of Treasury consisted of the government's local and foreign borrowings. The figure does not include the liabilities of the private sector, which are regularly reported by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas.

The government used an exchange rate of P53.35 to the dollar in computing its borrowings as of July this year. The rate used in the same period last year was P44.9 to a dollar.

With the current exchange rate, the size of the foreign debts of the government swelled by P27 billion or by 2.4 percent higher compared with P1.145 trillion in the first six months of the

DEBT/ B4

Ecozone investments seen to decline

BY GIL C. CABACUNGAN JR.

THE PHILIPPINE Economic Zone Authority is downcast about the prospects of new investments in economic zones next year as foreign investors continue to fret about the unstable world market and peace and order problems in the country.

In a memorandum to Trade Secretary and Peza chair Manuel Roxas II, Peza director general Lilia B. de Lima said Peza expected investments in government-run and private ecozones to reach only P50 billion next year, its lowest since 1999.

De Lima said ecozones were built mainly to attract foreign investors to establish overseas factories in the Philippines through generous incentives and adequate facilities. Based on its data, De Lima said foreign capital accounted for 84 percent of all investments poured into Peza ecozones since 1995.

But the wobbly world market, made even more tense by the US-led coalition's attack in Afghanistan, and the persistent peace and order concern, particularly the security problem in Mindanao, have prompted the Peza to take a gloomy outlook on future investments.

Peza has set an ambitious P88-billion target this year which is widely expected to be scaled down considering that the investment tally for the first 10 months this year reached only P28.622 billion, down 56 percent from last year. Investments in 2000 doubled to P74.056 billion in new investments last year from P36.819 billion in 1999.

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BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Banal III

THERE is now an "insurance mafia" in this cute administration of Gloriaetta. Well, as they say in business, insurance is the only legitimate racket. It pays good commission.

Recently, Gloriaetta created a committee to end the dispute between the GSIS and Napocor over reinsurance. I'm afraid it has already metamorphosed into that mafia.

Now I know that, according to John F. Kennedy, who is not at all related to my friend John Kenny Dee, a committee is a group of 12 people doing the work of one.

But in this cute administration, the insurance committee seems to want to do all the insurance work of every government agency. For what reason? I give you one guess.

On paper, heading the group is supposedly Finance Secretary Jose Isidro "the Whiz" Camacho, who is not even a "mama's boy," okay?

* * *

IT all started a few weeks ago. Napocor president Jesus Alcordo thought he heard a voice from somewhere. It was actually coming from a certain George Francisco.

It urged Alcordo to take over from the GSIS the bidding for Napocor's reinsurance. The GSIS usually insures Napocor's assets, and then the GSIS taps reinsurers abroad.

In other words, Alcordo had no authority to meddle with GSIS business. Lo and behold, Gloriaetta issued a memo creating that committee of the Whiz.

Nothing happened in the bidding conducted by the committee. None of the reinsurance brokers submitted bids. They were accredited by Alcordo himself.

The committee did such a terrifically good job that, until now, Napocor still has no insurance. For Napocor, it's like running around Megamall without its pants on.

* * *

ANYWAY, how come there was no bidder? I thought, as Alcordo had been insisting, the Napocor account was so lucrative for brokers that the bidding could be done in a jiffy.

Word going around insurance circles has it that the favored brokers accredited by Alcordo hesitated to submit bids for fear of humiliation.

There was supposed to be a, well, ahh, er, just a little "addition" in the quotation. All right, it's the commission! The favored brokers would have to tack it into the pricing.

Thus; it would have been easy for the GSIS to get price quotes that were much lower than the winning "lowest" bid. The GSIS would only have to remove the padding.

No wonder, the showdown between Alcordo and GSIS president and general manager Winston Garcia turned into a failed bidding. Don't you just love committees!

* * *

WITH the smashing success of the Napocor bidding, the "insurance mafia" then turned their eyes on the SSS. Like all government agencies, the fund buys insurance from the GSIS.

The same group wanted to take control of the bidding for the SSS reinsurance. Unfortunately, no bidding was needed. The GSIS decided to absorb all the risks.

Well, the SSS insurance was only worth P800 million. In comparison, the "commission" for the Napocor reinsurance alone would have been $4 million to $5 million.

Now, I heard that the same group also wanted to grab the reinsurance for PNOC, chaired by former Rep. Sergio "Mr. Diction" Apostol. My info is that even before the ``insurance mafia" could invoke somebody's name, Apostol showed them the door. Better luck next time! Or run to mama!

* * *

NOBODY knew that Transportation Secretary

BREAKTIME/ B4

COUNTRY SHARES
As of October 23, 2001

	BUYING	SELLING
ALABANG COUNTRY CLUB A/B*	-	1.5 M/1 8 M*
BAGUIO COUNTRY CLUB	700,000	750,000
CALATAGAN GOLF CLUB A/B*	-	100,000/105,000*
CAMP JOHN HAY	-	300,000
CANLUBANG	-	800,000
CAPITOL HILLS	115,000	130,000
CELEBRITY SPORTS CLUB	-	205,000
EAGLE RIDGE A/B*/C**	350,000/620,000**	375,000/450,000*/700,000**
EVERCREST A/B*	-	100,000/150,000*
FONTANA D/C*/B**	120,000*	90,000/150,000*/280,000**
FOREST HILLS A/B*/C**	230,000	240,000/350,000*/450,000**
LUISITA GOLF CLUB	500,000	Pls. call or swap
MAKATI SPORTS A/B*	-	300,000/400,000*
MANILA GOLF CLUB CORP.	-	14 M
MANILA POLO CLUB	2,575,000	2,700,000
MANILA SOUTHWOODS A/B*	-	700,000/800,000*
METROPOLITAN A/B*	-	160,000/170,000*
MIMOSA IND./CORP.*	-	240,000/375,000*
MT. MALARAYAT A/C* (w/lot)**/B***	450,000***	350,000/650,000*/2.0 M**
ORCHARD A/B*/C**	600,000**	240,000/425,000*
PUERTO AZUL A/B*	140,000	150,000/Pls. call*
RIVIERA A/B*	-	230,000/400,000*
ROCKWELL CLUB	500,000	550,000
ROYALE TAGAYTAY A/B*/C**	100,000	120,000/150,000*/180,000**
SHERWOOD HILLS A/B*/C**	-	250,000/350,000*/450,000**
STA. ELENA GOLF CLUB A	-	1,650,000
SUBIC BAY IND/CORP.*	400,000*	300,000/450,000*
TAT FILIPINAS GOLF A/B*	-	350,000/550,000*
TAGAYTAY H-LANDS CC/GOLF*	800,000*	375,000/900,000*
TAGAYTAY MIDLANDS	-	750,000
VALLE VERDE IND.	170,000	185,000
WACK WACK	-	6.8 M

Available Lessors for Playing Rights: Alabang, Calatagan, Camp John Hay, Canlubang, Canyon Woods, Celebrity, Eagleridge, Eastridge, Forest Hills, Makati Sports, Malarayat, Orchard, Riviera, Sta. Elena, Southwoods, Tagaytay H-lands & Midlands, Valley Golf, Wack Wack, Rockwell & Others

Selling: Villas, Belleview, Pinecrest & Woodlands in Tagaytay Highlands

Lots: Eagleridge, Forest Hills, Punta Fuego, Royale Tagaytay & Southwoods

Buying: Orchard Lot Phase 7

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CLUB	SELLER	BUYER
Alabang Country Club "A"	1,400,000	-
Camp John Hay	350,000	270,000
Capitol Hills Golf & CC	130,000	120,000
Canyon Woods	350,000	-
Canlubang	700,000	-
Celebrity Sports	200,000	-
Eagleridge "A"	350,000	-
Eastridge	220,000	-
Fontana "D"	90,000	Pls. Call
Manila Polo	2,800,000	-
Manila Golf "C"	17,000,000	-
Manila Southwoods "A"	-	650,000
Manila Southwoods "B"	750,000	-
Orchard	230,000	190,000
Phil. Columbian	90,000	60,000
Puerto Azul	170,000	-
Quezon City Sports Club	220,000	-
Riviera Golf	220,000	-
Rockwell	500,000	-
Royale Tagaytay	100,000	80,000
Sherwoods	120,000	-
Tagaytay Highlands Golf & CC	850,000	-
Tagaytay Midlands	750,000	-
Valle Verde (Indv.)	300,000	155,000
Valley Golf	240,000	-
Wack-Wack Golf	6,800,000	-

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Trading Manager
Emelie C. Balahadia & Joy A. Vivas
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RFM says Tan firm eyes Swift

RFM Corp. said yesterday that a company belonging to tobacco and airline tycoon Lucio Tan had expressed interest in its Swift Foods meat processing unit, but there were no formal talks yet.

"Our investment banker has received such indication of interest on the Swift meat operations from the said group, but no meeting nor discussions have been held yet. It is at a very preliminary stage," RFM said in a statement.

The INQUIRER reported last week that one of Tan's firms, Foremost Farms Inc., was considering acquiring a stake in Swift as its vehicle for entry into the meat processing business.

RFM was untraded from its Friday close of P1.84, while closely held Swift was untraded from its June 27 close of 60 centavos.

Tan-held Tanduay Holdings was also untraded from its Friday close of four pesos.

RFM is currently in the final stages of talks to sell its softdrink unit Cosmos Bottling Corp. to San Miguel Corp.

RFM had said it would focus on its food business after the sale. *Reuters*

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PCI Capital Corporation
Co-Lead Underwriter

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Philippine Stock Exchange

(As of Monday, October 22, 2001)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Banco Filipino Sav & Mort	99	100	99	100	1,900
Bank of the Phil. Islands	45.5	45.5	43.5	44	1,362,200
China Banking Corp.	530	530	530	530	710
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	17.75	17.75	17.5	17.5	231,800
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	175	176	169	170	67,700
Philippine National Bank	48	48	48	48	30,000
Phil. Savings Bank	29	29	29	29	1,000
Union Bank of the Phil.	16.5	16.5	16.5	16.5	500
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Bankard Inc.	0.99	1	0.93	0.93	220,000
Filipino Fund Inc.	0.28	0.28	0.27	0.27	130,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1220	1220	1220	1220	4,090
Sun Life Financial Serv.	1020	1020	1020	1020	10,380
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	25.5	25.5	25.5	25.5	11,700
Digital Telecom Phils. Inc.	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	650,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	560	590	560	580	960
Ipeople Inc.	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	20,000
Liberty Telecoms Holdings	0.47	0.47	0.45	0.45	2,090,000
Piltel	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	170,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	360	362.5	357.5	360	22,540
Ivantage Corp.	0.46	0.46	0.46	0.46	76,170,000
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.017	0.017	0.016	0.016	43,300,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	21.75	21.75	21.25	21.25	7,000
Manila Electric Co. B	32	32	32	32	372,000
Petron Corp.	1.14	1.16	1.14	1.14	1,368,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	1.3	1.38	1.3	1.36	12,334,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Fortune Cement Corp.	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	590,000
Republic Cement Corp.	1	1	1	1	30,000
Republic Glass Hldg. Corp.	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	20,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	2.08	2.08	2.08	2.08	74,000
Cosmos Bottling Corp.	5	5.2	5	5.2	184,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	11	11	11	11	41,000
La Tondeña Distillers Inc.	24.25	24.5	24	24.5	42,600
RFM Corp.	1.86	1.92	1.84	1.9	485,000
San Miguel Corp. A	39	39	38.5	39	148,200
San Miguel Corp. B	43	43.5	43	43.5	59,200
Vitarich Corp.	0.37	0.37	0.37	0.37	100,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.48	0.48	0.48	0.48	60,000
Ayala Corp.	4.8	4.8	4.5	4.55	6,293,000
Alsons Cons. Res. Inc.	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	10,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	127,000
A. Soriano Corp.	0.43	0.43	0.43	0.43	400,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.39	0.39	0.39	0.39	100,000
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.18	0.2	0.18	0.2	1,820,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.78	0.78	0.74	0.74	790,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	200,000
Ever-Gotesco Resources	0.03	0.031	0.03	0.031	800,000
Fil-Estate Corp.	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	300,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	0.66	0.66	0.66	0.66	10,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	23.25	23.25	23	23	99,000
Guoco Holdings (Phils.)	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14	10,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.24	1.28	1.2	1.2	526,000
Marsteel Cons. Inc. A	0.012	0.012	0.012	0.012	4,500,000
Marsteel Cons. Inc. B	0.011	0.011	0.011	0.011	1,500,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.56	0.57	0.56	0.56	400,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.2	0.21	0.2	0.21	130,000
Music Corp.	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	270,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.36	0.36	0.35	0.35	400,000
Wellex Industries Inc.	0.18	0.2	0.18	0.2	310,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	30,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.48	0.48	0.48	0.48	30,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.0675	0.0675	0.0675	0.0675	500,000
Central Azucar Don Pedro	0.77	0.77	0.76	0.76	300,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	10	10	10	10	50,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	80,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.42	0.42	0.42	0.42	120,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	250,000
Manila Jockey Club	9	9	8	8	22,000
Philippine Racing Club	4.8	4.8	4.8	4.8	65,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	26	26	26	26	167,000
Cosmos Bottling Corp.-Pref.	10	10	10	10	3,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.-Pref.	520	520	520	520	220
Jollibee Warrants	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	100,000
Philweb.Com Inc.-Warrants	0.005	0.005	0.0048	0.0048	2,000,000
OTHERS					
Centro Escolar University	8.5	9	8.5	9	6,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	4.15	4.15	4.1	4.15	3,448,000
Araneta Properties Inc.	0.11	0.11	0.11	0.11	150,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	10,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	70,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.24	100,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.2	0.2	0.195	0.195	1,800,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.14	1.14	1.1	1.1	7,970,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	130,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	10,000
SM Development Corp.	0.85	0.85	0.82	0.82	310,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.4	636,000
MINING					
Itogon-Suyoc Mines A	0.023	0.023	0.023	0.023	80,000,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	100,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co. B	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	120,000
OIL					
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0032	0.0032	0.003	0.003	100,000,000
South China Resources Inc.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	120,000
Vulcan Ind'l.	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	10,000

San Miguel targeting 35% of feeds business

BY CHRISTINE A. GAYLICAN

SAN MIGUEL Foods Inc.'s BMEG Agri-Feeds subsidiary is targeting to corner at least 35 percent of the P80-billion commercial feeds business this year.

In an interview, company vice president and manager for national feeds George Nava said San Miguel Foods would maintain a 50-percent expansion rate, especially for its hog feeds line.

"This is still a conservative rate of expansion. We will continue to build at least two satellite plants every year to expand our market reach nationwide," Nava said.

BMEG currently holds only a quarter of the commercial feeds market. It has about 20 satellite plants all over the country that can manufacture some 20,000 metric tons of feeds per hour.

BMEG is one of the 10 major commercial feed manufacturers in the country, competing against Purina Corp., Vitarich Corp. and General Milling Corp. It manufactures and markets hogs, fish, poultry, fighting cocks feeds that are priced from P600 to as low as P10 a kilo for retail.

BMEG also exports shrimp feeds to India.

"The local feeds market is still growing, though it slightly follows the agricultural sector's growth, which has recently been positive," Nava said.

Apart from expanding its marketing satellite divisions, Nava also said BMEG was also open to future tie-ups with foreign pharmaceutical groups that would allow it to venture into animal medicine and vaccination.

Nava said BMEG's marketing strategy for the year would focus on the development of its hog feeds product line, which had a potential to generate some P6 billion in sales for the company due to the huge demand of the local market.

DISCLOSURES

CENTRAL Azucarera Don Pedro has acquired 200,000 of its shares at 77 centavos each.

* * *

ELECTED independent directors of **MIC Holdings Corp.** were Florentino Herrera III and Enrique Teehankee. ***Compiled by Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research***

91-day T-bill . . .

(From page B1)

soon. The last time the 91-day stood at two-digit levels was in March.

"We will allow the rates to breach double-digit levels if that is where the market will bring it. But the market should really stop testing the government whether it has money or not," he stressed.

He noted that the government has a healthy cash position and its unrestricted funds still stand at P20 billion. The ideal cash position level is about P30 billion.

"The free cash can go down to as low as P5 billion," said Edeza.

The national treasurer was confident the government would be able to contain the budget deficit within the P145-billion ceiling.

"We will let the market express its sentiment and one of these days, we will start rejecting high bids again," he said.

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PNOC nears deal with $600-M naphtha project investors

By Ronnel W. Domingo

PHILIPPINE National Oil Company's petrochemical subsidiary is working on a joint venture arrangement with companies from Malaysia, Brunei Darrusalam and Japan for the development of a $600-million naphtha cracker project.

PNOC president Thelmo Y. Cunanan said PNOC Petrochemical Development Corp. was in the thick of negotiations with these companies, including Malaysia's Petronas. He said the agreement would likely be signed in January.

Cunanan said the negotiating parties have been busy ironing out the terms of the agreement. The Philippine group wants to ensure that the terms will agree with the guidelines governing the establishment of a petrochemical plant in the country.

Although the terms have yet to be finalized, Cunanan said the equity distribution of the naphtha cracker could be as follows: Brunei, 35 percent; PNOC-PPDC, 34 percent; Malaysia's Petroliam Nasional Bhd (Petronas), 20 percent; and the remaining 11 percent will be shared by Japanese and local investors.

In an earlier interview, Energy Secretary Vicente S. Perez said that of the $600-million project cost, $360 million would be financed through loans, while $240 million would be covered by equity from stockholders.

Perez said the government aimed to come up by yearend with a memorandum of understanding or a joint venture agreement among the prospective investors.

He had announced that the government of Brunei was seriously studying a possible infusion of $84 million in equity into the naphtha cracker project.

He said that if an MOU or a joint venture agreement was signed soon, the naphtha cracker would be on stream by 2005.

The cracker will manufacture raw materials needed for the production of plastic products.

The country is currently fully dependent on importing raw materials for the petrochemical industry.

The plant is expected to have a capacity of between 600,000 and 700,000 tons a year.

Sky, Home prepared to lose subscribers

By Abigail L. Ho

SISTER cable television companies Sky Vision Corp. and Phil. Home Cable Holdings Corp. said they were ready to lose a "substantial" number of their subscribers when they increase their subscription rates before yearend and make available some of their channels on a "premium" basis.

Sky Vision managing director Carlos Tria Jr. told reporters Monday that the two firms had to "make the painful decision" of increasing their rates because of the skyrocketing fees charged by their content providers and their rising debts.

He said the companies have an estimate of how many subscribers they would lose once the new rates take effect in the next two months but refused to divulge the figures. The two firms have a combined 67-percent share of the cable television market.

Tria defended the decision of Sky and Home to increase their subscription fees saying that the fees in the Philippines were "too low for operators to be viable." SkyCable charges its subscribers P550 per month, while Home Cable charges P400. Later this year, the fees charged by these companies will be increased by P150 per month. In other countries, Tria said the fees charged range from $15 to $38.

Meantime, Star TV yesterday said that it had pulled the plug on Sky Cable and Home Cable over unpaid fees worth millions of dollars.

The withdrawal of the service deprived Filipino viewers of nine channels including sports amid the popular Major League Baseball post-season and ahead of Michael Jordan's return from retirement in the National Basketball Association.

Star Group Ltd. regional director Charles Pollard said in a statement that supply was "indefinitely suspended" over the cable systems' "non-payment of millions of dollars of fees" to Star and ESPN Star Sports.

"Some of these debts date back to last year," he said. "We hope that the matter will be resolved quickly and the normal service will be resumed."

Equitable-PCI pays BSP another ₱3B

EQUITABLE-PCI Bank said it had paid the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas another P3 billion, bringing down further its borrowings to only P9 billion, from the original amount of P30 billion.

BSP Deputy Gov. Alberto V. Reyes confirmed that the payment was made. He said he was confident that the bank would be able to fully pay the balance before year's end.

Equitable-PCI Bank's aggressive deposit recovery program enabled it to prepay P21 billion, or 70 percent of the P30-billion BSP liquidity facility. "We have been able to make prepayments because of the resurgence in deposit growth which continues to increase to this day," Equitable-PCI Bank president and CEO Deogracias N. Vistan stated.

"Largely due to the performance of the branches and the rest of the officers and staff, we are very pleased that Equitable-PCI Bank has successfully regained the confidence of its old customers and earned the patronage of new clients," he added.

Cemco raising stake in Alsons

By Doris C. Dumlao

CEMCO Holdings Inc., a joint venture between the Holderbank group and Filipino investors led by the Alcantara group, will raise its stake in Alsons Cement Corp. to around 90 percent from the existing 49 percent to pave the way for the conversion into equity of huge shareholder advances.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange, Alsons corporate secretary Allen Morallos-Arbis said the company would issue 4.23 billion new shares equivalent to 79.55 percent of outstanding shares in order to accommodate the debt-to-equity swap.

The loans, amounting to $60 million, came from Alsons' Swiss shareholder Holderfin BV in 1998 and 1999. They were used to finance the construction of a new cement line in Lugait, Misamis Oriental.

Holderfin later assigned the loans to Cemco, which is 40 percent owned by Holderfin and 60 percent by Clinco Corp., the holding company of Filipino investors led by former trade undersecretary Tomas Alcantara.

The company said in the disclosure yesterday that the debt conversion, including interest as of August, would be worth $70.4 million or P3.62 billion. The conversion ratio will be P1 common share for every 85.66 centavos of debt.

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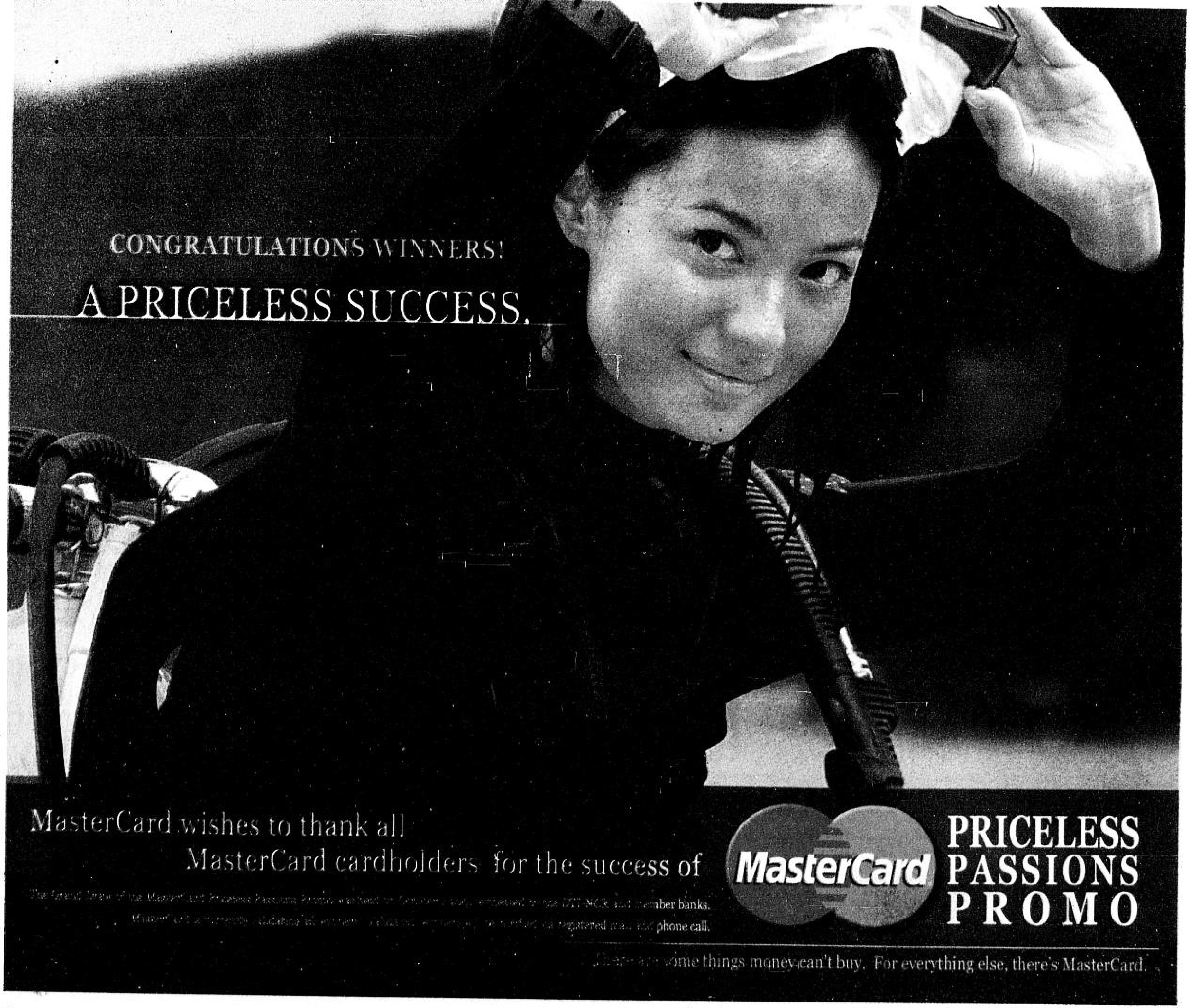
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P425M IN UNPAID LEASE

John Hay developer to settle debts in kind

By Elena R. Torrijos

BAGUIO CITY—CJH Development Corp., developer of Camp John Hay, said it planned to use some of its properties to pay most of the P425 million in lease it owed the Bases Conversion Development Authority this year.

In a news briefing, CJH chief operating officer Frederico Alquiros said the company would pay P100 million to P150 million in cash and offer properties to settle the rest.

Alquiros reported that CJH had the cash to pay the P425 million in full, but it needed the money to continue developing Camp John Hay, a former rest-and-recreation base of the US Army.

Under its contract with BCDA that went into effect in 1997, CJH planned to spend over P2.6 billion in capital expenditure by the end of the first five years, or up to July 2003, under an eight-month extension.

BCDA had accepted golf shares, and housing and hotel units that CJH was constructing as payment of rentals because of the Asian financial crisis, which led to a slump in the property market and tourism.

The economic environment has made it very difficult for the company to sell units of high-end, country-type homes and over 2,500 golf shares, Alquiros said.

A possible revenue booster—the opening of a casino in the complex—was being opposed by the city government, he added.

CJH will likely have to make an equity call on its shareholders unless BCDA again accepts properties as lease payment, he said.

The company's shareholders, however, were themselves hard-pressed because their operations had also been affected by the country's economic downturn, he added.

CJH is 35-percent owned by the Sobrepena family's College Assurance Plan group. Another 35 percent belongs to Fil-Estate Land Inc. while a company of former President Estrada's crony, Manuel Zamora, holds 30 percent.

The Sobrepena group won the contract to develop Camp John Hay after a consortium led by Sen. Manuel Villar, who then headed the country's biggest developer of low-cost housing, forfeited its bid.

To-date, CJH has spent some P1.7 billion to develop Camp John Hay, a 265-hectare sprawling field dotted by hundreds of pine trees and featuring an 18-hole golf course, Alquiros disclosed.

He said the north wing representing 72 rooms of the company's flagship project, a 189-room hotel called the Manor, would open this December.

By early next year, the first phase of a 12,000-square-meter commercial complex should be completed.

Allengoal wants terms of NSC bidding cleared

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

ALLENGOAL Steel Fabrication Trading Co. yesterday urged the National Steel Corp. liquidator to postpone today's submission of lease contract proposals for the steel giant's dormant Iligan steel mill.

Allengoal president Alexander Delmo asked the NSC liquidator to wait until the Department of Trade and Industry-led evaluation committee could reveal the terms of reference in choosing a suitable investor.

A deferment would enable the committee to clarify to all parties involved the terms of the bidding, he said.

Delmo, citing unnamed sources, claimed that there was no consensus reached on the draft of the bidding terms where Allengoal claimed some provisions were inserted to favor special parties as well as unreasonable deposits and guarantees.

Delmo also charged that a provision was inserted into the terms that would have given the committee vast powers to even sell the NSC.

The trade department has scheduled today the reconstitution of the committee following Hottick Investments-Renong Bhd.'s forced return to the negotiating table as well as the acceptance of bids for the lease of NSC facilities.

Delmo said Allengoal might participate in the bidding should the committee make a satisfactory clarification of the issues regarding the terms, but it would still pursue its case with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

Allengoal is claiming that its lease contract entered into with Hottick-Renong in May 2000 is valid and should be enforced.

The committee, however, insisted that Allengoal's claim was baseless, considering that the NSC's assets were under liquidation and the liquidator should approve any transaction.

Delmo is questioning the undue haste of the committee to process the offers for the NSC without waiting for the resolution of cases pending with the SEC such as the committee's jurisdiction on NSC assets and the legality of its lease agreement with Hottick-Renong.

DOE seeks tax cuts on local fuels

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE DEPARTMENT of Energy is pushing for lower taxes on local fuels used to generate electricity to promote new and renewable sources of energy, Energy Undersecretary Cyril del Callar said yesterday.

"We are exploring all options, and we are awaiting all inputs and recommendations from the Department of Finance on how to effect this equalization," Del Callar told a forum on alternative fuels.

He said the energy department wanted to cut taxes on local fuels to achieve "parity" with taxes slapped on imported fuels.

Del Callar explained that duties on geothermal and other indigenous fuels had not changed since the '70s.

With the restructuring of the oil industry, taxes on petroleum imports, on the other hand, have been cut to 3 percent, resulting in a "distortion" that the energy department is now seeking to correct.

"Taxes on crude and petroleum products went down, which resulted in a gross distortion of taxes between local and imported fuel," Del Callar said.

As reflected in power generation, for instance, taxes on diesel and bunker fuel account for 8 centavos per kilowatt-hour, while those for geothermal and natural gas are pegged at 30 centavos and 42 centavos per kwh.

"We have to address this tax distortion, and we need a parity on taxes. We should know how to do this by December," Del Callar said.

The move should be revenue-neutral and must not affect the budget of the national government, he said.

"These are provided for in Sections 34 and 35 of the power law and (the particulars) would be embodied in the implementing rules that we are preparing," Del Callar said.

Section 34 sets a universal charge on all end-users of electricity, which is aimed at "equalizing taxes and royalties applied to indigenous or renewable sources of energy vis-à-vis imported energy fuels."

Section 35 provides that "royalties, returns and taxes collected for the exploitation of all indigenous sources of energy (shall be reduced) so as to effect parity of tax."

Aussie firm to explore for platinum

By Tonette Orejas
PDI Central Luzon Desk

STA. CRUZ, Zambales—Filipino-Australian mining company Crau-Kinloch Resources Ltd. is asking the Zambales provincial board to endorse its plan to explore nickel sulfide at the defunct Acoje Mines here.

Kinloch officials last week presented to the provincial board its proposal to mine platinum from a nickel sulfide-rich minefield here, Zambales Vice Gov. Ramon Lacbain II said.

The firm is urging the board to pass a resolution supporting the project so it can secure an environmental clearance certificate from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

Kinloch geologist Jovy Gonzalez said initial findings showed that the former 3,800-hectare Acoje Mines site, which until its closure in 1993 was the largest source and supplier of chromite in the world, also had a rich deposit of nickel sulfide.

Engineer Rudy Paringgit, formerly with Acoje, said at least 2 million metric tons of nickel sulfide were "accidentally mined" at the former chromite pits.

Lacbain said Kinloch officials considered the Sta. Cruz nickel sulfide to be of "world-class quality," next to those found in Australia and Canada.

Platinum, derived from nickel sulfide, fetches thrice the price of gold because it is used to manufacture stainless products, jewelry, warheads and ammunitions, Lacbain said, citing reports presented by the firm.

He said Kinloch was eager to apply for a mining permit should its exploration activities in two years confirm a potential yield of at least 8 million metric tons of nickel sulfide.

ETPI opens new Internet phone service

By Abigail L. Ho

EASTERN Telecommunications Philippines Inc. has launched "Access PowerPhone," the first phone service with built-in free Internet, international direct dialing and direct distance dialing minutes in its monthly service fee.

The service was initially launched in Binondo and Vito Cruz in Manila.

"It is an all-digital full telephone service that offers local calling capability, direct dial capability, value added services such as call waiting, call forwarding, three-party calling and caller ID. (It also offers) enhanced business services such as multi-hunt, central exchange capability and Internet access," ETPI business and consumer sales head Pastor Isaac III said.

He added that the new landline service had the lowest rates among telecommunication firms in the country at 30 centavos a minute.

Ejap Night on Thursday

THE ECONOMIC Journalists Association of the Philippines will be holding the 2001 Ejap-PLDT Fellowship Night on Thurday, 7 p.m., at the Kiko's Bar along Jupiter Ave. A co-sponsor is the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp.

Ejap is the only assembly of business editors and reporters in print media in the Philippines.

On that same occasion, Ejap will honor former business journalists who have successfully moved on to different fields.

Ariba bats for Internet-based procurement solutions

THE RECENT downturn in major world economies will result in radical shifts to more cost-effective and efficient procurement methods that will use technology- and Internet-based end-to-end procurement and supply management solutions, according to Singapore-based Ariba.

Ariba said its end-to-end solution, which provides spend management, was set to provide support to the growing change in the nature and role of the procurement function in the Philippines.

Ariba Asean director for procurement and sourcing Charlie Villasenor said Ariba's focus on spend management solutions was in response to the growing demand for cost-reduction and operating efficiency in the wake of a perceived prolonged difficulties in the local and international economic arena.

Procurement functions and the people that run them are becoming increasingly important in creating cost savings that translate straight to the bottom line, Villasenor said.

He added that with seriously challenged economies worldwide, well-managed expenditure reductions had become the key to a healthy bottom line.

Ariba is a global leader in business-to-business e-commerce platform sector. Through its open, end-to-end interoperable software solutions and hosted Web-based commerce services, Ariba enables efficient online trade, integration and collaboration between business-to-business marketplaces, buyers, suppliers and commerce service providers.

Even when economies recover, stiff global competition will put a lid on raising prices, Villasenor said.

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Debt stock up 16.58% to P2.296T

(From page B1)

year. The local component of the debt stock grew by P9 billion or 0.7 percent to P1.15 trillion.

Compared with last year's figures, the foreign obligations of the government also went up by a hefty 23.47 percent from P927.89 billion while local borrowings rose 10.45 percent from P1.042 trillion.

"The foreign borrowings grew because of forex depreciation," explained Edeza as he pointed out that no significant new foreign borrowing was finalized in July this year, as opposed to a $250 million in loans concluded in June.

The debt stock in the first seven months of the year went up with the Macapagal administration's tendency to depend more on domestic borrowings to bridge the budget gap.

The Macapagal administration relied more on local fund sources in this year to take advantage of the declining interest rates.

The government borrows about P7 billion weekly from the private sector by issuing treasury bills and bonds.

Of the P173 billion in funds to be borrowed this year, close to 80 percent is to come from the local financial market. Next year, the government said it would bring up the percentage of the foreign borrowings to almost half the required amount of P111 billion.s

Edeza said that of the total debt stock, 20.3 percent was in the form of short-term liabilities or those maturing within one year. He said that the bulk or 65.4 percent was in the form of long-term debts while 14.3 percent consisted of medium-term loans.

Of the total foreign debt, 58.6 percent was dollar-denominated and 34.5 percent was yen-denominated.

Breaktime

(From page B2)

Pantaleon Alvarez could talk tough, but he finally did it on television last week.

Alvarez was actually commenting on the DOTC decision to cancel the contract between the government and Metro Rail Transit Corp. for the MRT extension project.

He said it was about time. He said he just had to do it. He said the project had been delayed. Or something decisive like that.

On his own, you see, without consulting MRTC, Alvarez imposed a deadline on MRTC to come to an agreement with him or else...

* * *

THE DEADLINE was Oct. 15, which fell on a Monday. The previous Friday, on Oct. 12, Alvarez raised 62 issues in the pending agreement for MRTC to resolve.

But I wouldn't call it harassment, would you? It's just that the lawyers of MRTC worked over the weekend to resolve the Alvarez "issues". Only five remain as of today!

Still, the tough Alvarez would not have any of that nonsense from MRTC that it practically had only one working day to resolve his "issues".

So Alvarez canceled the contract. It is actually a live contract, being part of the one for the MRT line on the whole of Edsa. How could he just cancel it? By being tough?

* * *

IN the days before Alvarez exercised absolute power over the MRT, the idea was to build a railway along the entire stretch of Edsa.

But the bright minds in the government bureaucracy decided to cut it into two. Why? Because they were afraid the MRT would compete with the LRT. Bright!

And so today, the first phase of the MRT is running well and good, while the extension to Caloocan is not yet done. That's only 5 km more.

From the start, the MRT should have been connected with the LRT. It would give more convenience to the public. More would ride. How could anybody think otherwise?

* * *

NOW, I really don't know the agenda of our tough-talking Alvarez for the MRT extension project. I just know that MRTC had been dying to do it from Day 1.

So if there is any delay in the project, I am not sure it is caused by the MRTC people. They want the project, forgodsakes, and they will even sue Alvarez for it!

The delay, it seems to me, comes from the government. Somebody in the Cabinet has been blocking the award of the project to MRTC. I hope it's not for vengeance.

That's the only way I can explain the dirty tactics of Alvarez. Imagine, raising 62 issues one day before the deadline that he himself imposed.

* * *

LOOK at that, Alvarez can change an existing live contract this time. Yet he could not do the same thing in the Piatco contract for Naia Terminal 3.

Alvarez insisted he could not change the Piatco contract. Like, the contract was already locked, and so to him it was better left locked, and so next time *na lang*.

To him, it was a matter of principle. No, who said it was money? No way! It was all about principle.

Unfortunately, Alvarez has an adjustable set of principles. For Piatco, a contract is a contract. For MRTC, a contract is just a piece of sheet.

PURCHASING AND MATERIALS MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION OF THE PHILIPPINES

ARIES B. ESPINOSA, Assistant Editor
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LITA PASCUAL, Account Manager

PMMAP Annual Conference & Exhibit – Supplylink 2001

THE PURCHASING and Materials Management Association of the Philippines (PMMAP) will be holding its 10th annual conference and exhibit, dubbed as Supplylink 2001, with the them, **"Beyond the Supply Chain... Sooner Than We Think"** on October 23-25, 2001 at the Isla Ballroom of the Edsa Shangri-La Plaza Hotel, Mandaluyong City.

This year's Supplylink will feature 13 different technical sessions focusing on three areas – 1) Supply Management: Looking at the Big Picture; 2) Value Thru e-Business; and, 3) Professional Development: Getting Out of the Box. A roundtable discussion on e-Procurement will also feature panelists from the different user and provider companies in the country today.

The three-day event will also be the venue for the annual "Gawad Sinop Awarding Ceremony", - a tribute to the most outstanding purchasing and materials management professional with quantum contributions and achievements in performance.

An exhibit of products and services that range from softwares and office equipment will be open for the participants during the event.

MESSAGES

IT IS with great pleasure that I extend my warmest felicitations to the officers and members of the **Purchasing and Materials Management Association of the Philippines (PMMAP), Inc.** as they hold their National Conference and trade exhibit entitled, "SUPPLYLINK 2001."

I salute the PMMAP for continuing to make purchasing and materials management relevant in our national development efforts. The holding of this conference and trade exhibit is another worthy undertaking that will usher another fruitful year for purchasing practitioners in the country. I am happy to note the PMMAP is doing its best to adopt innovative ways to make the profession more responsive to present challenges. This is in furtherance of our common goal to create a more attractive business climate in the country.

Despite the economic challenges currently confronting our country, I am pleased to see our purchasing practitioners striving to help achieve growth and progress. I hope this trade exhibit with the theme, *"Beyond the Supply Chain...sooner than we think,"* will help strenghten your organization's commitment to push the profession to greater heights and continue its significant role in revitalizing our economy.

The participation of the PMMAP in the efforts to foster more sustained growth in the country is vital especially now that we are at a delicate phase in our country's recovery efforts, The task is daunting, but with our concerted efforts, we will succeed in the attainment of our worthy cause.

Congratulations and MABUHAY!

Gloria Macapagal Arroyo
GLORIA MACAPAGAL ARROYO
President
Rupublic of the Philippines

WARMEST greetings from the Purchasing & Materials Management Association of the Philippines!

It is with great pleasure that I welcome everyone to our annual conference and trade exhibit, SUPPLYLINK 2001. This year's theme "Beyond the Supply Chain...sooner than we think", provides us the opportunity to get a glimpse of leading-edge technologies in purchasing and supply chain management.

Given the current economic scenario, purchasing and supply chain management has become increasingly important as they equip companies with cost-effective tools to address the competitive business environment. Consistent with PMMAP's goal of leadership through education, innovation and partnership, this year's conference provides the latest tools and techniques required to achieve excellence in our profession.

The conference aims to give a most comprehensive educational experience to all participants through informative technical sessions, interactive round table discussions and a trade exhibit showcasing cutting-edge products and services. It also serves as an excellent venue for collaboration and networking among business partners, delegates and visitors from around the world.

MABUHAY!

Imelda S. Carrillo
IMELDA S. CARRILLO, C.P.M.
PMMAP President

PMMAP: Leadership through education, innovation and partnership

EDUCATION

NEW, improved seminars: at least two seminars held every month throughout the year to cater to both entry-level and managerial positions in supply management.

Certification & Accreditation programs: in partnership with the National Association of Purchasing Management, certification and accreditation review programs are designed for professionals and entry-level practitioners, respectively, and are held twice a year. Examinations held here in the Philippines; the title is recognized around the world.

Executive Course in Purchasing & Supply Chain Management: a post-graduate course to be offered to supervisory levels at the Ateneo Professional Schools, Rockwell Center, Makati City; will be launched on April 2002; course can be customized for companies.

BSBA Major in Purchasing & Supply Chain Management: a fruit of PMMAP's partnership with Pamantasan ng Makati; will be offered starting June 2002; will include PMMAP's best and pioneer trainors as classroom teachers, therefore serving as PMMAP's service to the community.

e-Procurement Kapihan Series: a monthly kapihan that started in May 2001 and serves as a venue for e-Procurement users and providers to ventilate issues and recent developments in models and companies; held at the Ateneo Professional Schools Building at Rockwell Center, Makati City.

Regional Diploma in International Purchasing & Supply Management (IPSM): developed in collaboration with the International Trade Center - funded by the World Trade Organization (WTO) and the United Nations Center for Training and Development (UNCTAD) – and counterpart regional associations, the diploma course will utilize the Modular Learning System in IPSM; will be offered starting next year.

INNOVATION:

Online Buyers' Guide: will provide members with a list of our member companies' suppliers for easier networking; will be launched before the end for the year; for members only.

e-Library: will feature list of books available at the PMMAP Library, as well as e-Books that will subscribe to.

Online Compensation Survey: a benchmarking survey on purchasing professionals' compensation; for members only.

Best Practices Sharing: an online chat room where members can exchange best practices that can be used for their own cases; for members only.

INTERDEPENDENT PARTNERSHIP

International Trade Center WTO/UNCTAD: has conducted three free monthly workshops from June to August 2001 and has developed a fresh batch of trainors to deliver seminars, as well as classroom-type teaching; keeps PMMAP informed on the international trends, especially what helps developing (or third world) countries.

Ateneo Center for Continuing Education: houses monthly kapihan; PMMAP's partner in delivering the LMDP Executive Course in Supply Chain Management starting April 2002.

Pamantasan ng Makati: will be the venue for grooming future purchasing & supply chain management professionals; geared for entry-level positions with basic knowledge of the profession and on-the-job training sponsored by PMMAP member companies.

National Association of Purchasing Management (based in Tempe, Arizona): has PMMAP as one of its affiliates holding certification/accreditation program for experience practitioners; PMMAP now has 27 C.P.M.s; also is the main source of research materials in the PMMAP library; holds annual conferences attended by at least two PMMAP representatives; accredits points for re-certification/reaccreditation gained from attending seminars and conferences.

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MISSION STATEMENT

To contribute to the upliftment of professionalism of purchasing and materials management practitioners by championing innovations and new developments, and providing research, training, and development programs.

To promote the highest ethical standards in the practice of our profession.

To provide a link between members and government institutions in the discussion of policies and procedures affecting purchasing and materials management activities.

To provide a venue for networking among practitioners within the purchasing and materials management profession.

To actively seek out opportunities to contribute to the country's social and economic development.

To promote camaraderie among members through social, sports, and other activities.

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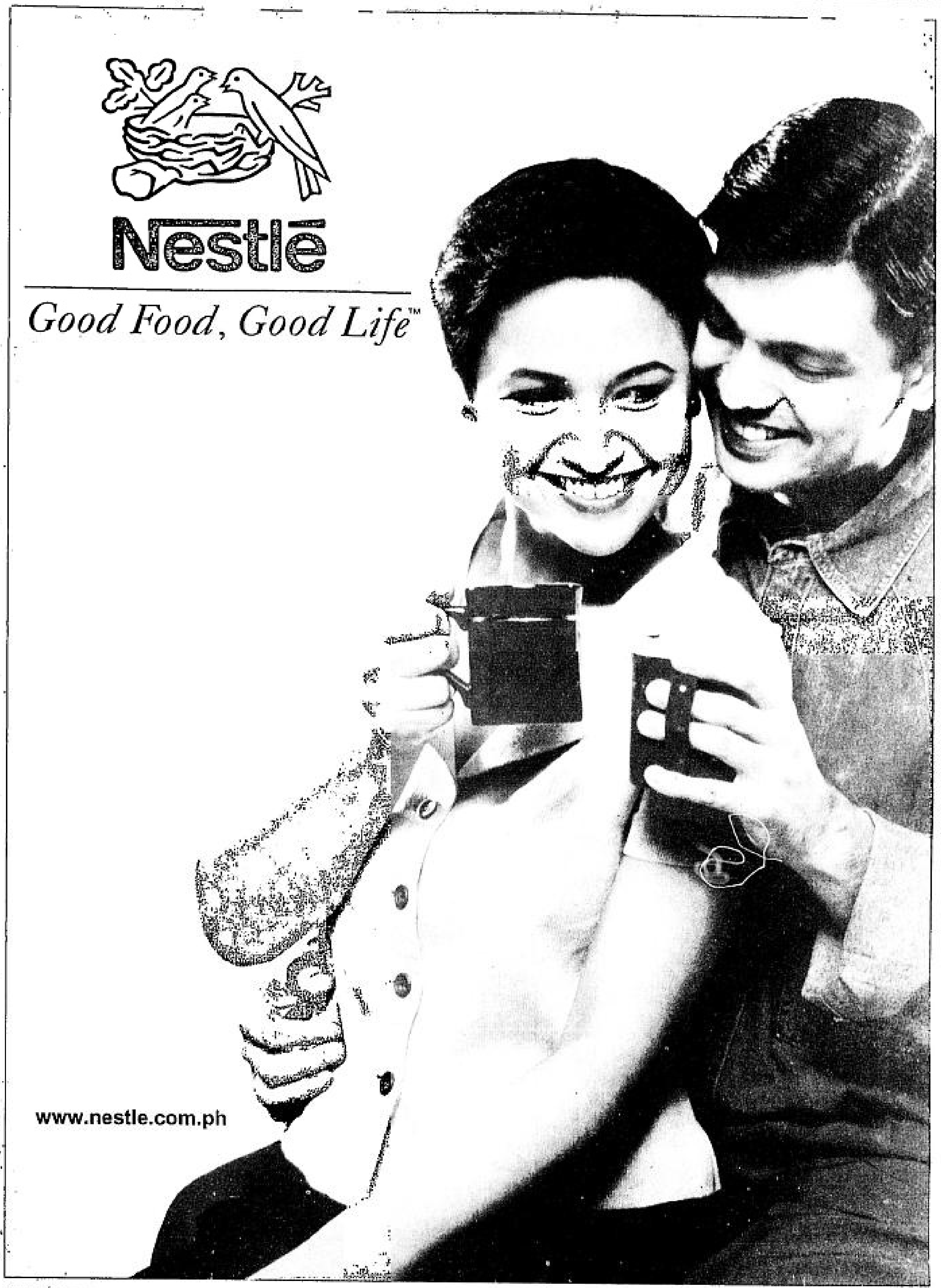

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JAPANESE Prime Minister Junichiro Kozumi, right, donning a traditional Chinese coat, is greeted by Chinese President Jiang Zemin on arrival at the Shanghai Science & Technology Museum for an informal gathering of Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (Apec) leaders, Sunday, Oct. 21. AP

Japan's trade surplus with Asia falls 31.6%

TOKYO—Japan's trade surplus with the rest of Asia fell 31.6 percent in September from a year ago, pushed down by a prolonged slump in demand for Japanese hi-tech products, the finance ministry said Monday.

The trade surplus with the rest of Asia fell for the 10th consecutive month to 316.99 billion yen ($2.6 billion) as exports dropped 14.8 percent to 1,650.4 billion yen and imports declined 9.5 percent to 1,333.4 billion yen.

Tokyo was studying the slip in imports from Asia, a ministry official said.

"We are closely watching the import trend here to see whether it will continue. DRAM, computer parts and other information technology-related components saw particularly large falls," said the official.

Imports of electronic parts and semiconductors from Asia fell 43.4 percent year-on-year, the ministry said in a statement.

Makoto Ishihara, economist at the Japan Research Institute, also said the sluggish demand for IT products depressed Japan's trade with the rest of Asia.

"Many firms are finalizing their inventory adjustment. But the current severe business situation of the IT sector is likely to continue," he said.

The slowdown in Asian trade was due in part to Japanese hi-tech manufacturers' moves to consolidate and merge their Asian production centers to reduce their production capacity amid slowing demand for hi-tech products, Ishikawa said.

"The situation is not likely to get any worse. But even an optimist would say the full recovery would take at least one year from now," he said.

Japan's overall trade surplus in September fell 18.3 percent from a year earlier to 1,055.9 billion yen, the finance ministry said.

Overall exports in the month fell 11.1 percent to 4,160.7 billion yen, while imports fell 8.3 percent to 3,104.8 billion yen, the ministry said.

Following are trade balances between Japan and Asian economies with the year-on-year percentage change:

- China deficit of 281 billion yen plus 15 percent;
- South Korea surplus of 119.7 billion yen plus 26.1 percent;
- Taiwan surplus of 136.6 billion yen minus 30.5 percent;
- Hong Kong surplus of 226.1 billion yen minus 9.6 percent;
- Singapore surplus of 104.0 billion yen minus 32.4 percent;
- Thailand surplus of 30.8 billion yen minus 22.8 percent;
- Malaysia surplus of 9.3 billion yen minus 30.1 percent;
- Indonesia deficit of 66.3 billion yen minus 4.9 percent;
- Philippines surplus of 23.5 billion yen minus 24.8 percent;
- Vietnam deficit of 7.4 billion yen plus 1,719 percent;
- India surplus of 4.4 billion yen plus 99.1 percent;

Association of Southeast Asian Nations:

- surplus of 84.2 billion yen minus 45.9 percent *AFP*

Indian software firms on track despite terror attacks

NEW DELHI—India's software industry is on track for a 30- to 40-percent leap in exports for the year to March 2002 despite the fallout of terrorist attacks on the United States, the main Indian software body said Monday.

Phiroze Vandrevala, chair of the 522-member National Association of Software and Service Companies, said last month's terror attacks had a strong impact on the Indian IT sector, but not enough to cripple it.

The sector is still growing fast enough to hit a group target of $87 billion in sales and $50 billion in exports by 2008, Vandrevala said.

"We started the year looking for growth of around 40 percent," he said. "Clearly the indications from the early figures are that 40 percent is not likely to happen. But we will be close enough to it."

"Even if the 40-percent figure is not achieved, that still leaves India's computer sector comfortably off compared with the rest of the world," Vandrevala said.

"In the current environment, if we can pull off these kind of numbers we will be doing very, very well."

India's largest software firms such as Infosys Technologies and Wipro Limited reported second-quarter results, which beat market expectations.

On Thursday, Wipro's net profits rose to 2.16 billion rupees ($45.10 million), up 40.5 percent from the previous year's figure of 1.54 billion rupees.

Vivek Paul, president and CEO of Wipro technologies, told a press conference in New Delhi that the key to Wipro's success in "these trying times" was its strong customer relationships.

"Our performance in the second quarter is also testament to the diversity of our business by customer base, technology depth and geography spread," said Paul.

He said Wipro added 26 new customers in the second quarter.

"The pitch we gave was that India is as far away from Afghanistan as Switzerland is from Chechnya," said Paul.

Wipro said its third quarter to December global-software sales would rise 5 percent over the second quarter.

On Sept. 30, foreign funds such as JP Morgan and UBS Warburg downgraded the Indian technology sector as the United States is its main export market.

More than 60 percent of last year's 280 billion rupees in Indian software exports went to North America. *AFP*

BOJ helping corporate finance

TOKYO—Japanese Finance Minister Masajuro Shiokawa said on Monday that the Bank of Japan's monetary easing was helping corporate funding, despite criticism that it was having little effect on supporting Japan's moribund economy.

Responding to comments that the BOJ's aggressive liquidity injections into the money market were only boosting banks' purchases of government bonds and not helping the private sector, Shiokawa said the BOJ's efforts were supporting corporate borrower activity in the capital markets.

"It is true that a lot of the money flow is ending up in the government bond market," Shiokawa told an Upper House question-and-answer session. "But corporations' funding activity has become diverse recently," he said.

"Interest rates have remained low, and we are seeing increased issuance of commercial paper and corporate bonds," he said. "I think the current monetary easing has had a certain effect on corporate funding."

Criticism of BOJ and government economic policies has been mounting in recent months as consumer prices have fallen steadily for two years, exacerbating Japan's economic woes.

One reason for the price decline is widely seen to be the fact that bank lending has fallen for 45 straight months, despite the BOJ's monetary easing.

This is due in part to the banks' lingering bad loan problems—a priority item on the policy agenda for Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi.

"Monetary policy is primarily in the BOJ's realm, but all government arms must cooperate to pursue an active role in stabilizing prices and underpinning the economy," Shiokawa said. *Reuters*

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SE Asia car sales down due to global recession

SINGAPORE—Motor vehicle sales in the four biggest Southeast Asian markets have begun to soften and the numbers are expected to worsen in the coming months, an industry monitor said.

Automotive Resources Asia Ltd. (ARA) said in a monthly report received here Monday that combined new-vehicle sales from January to August this year reached 670,071 units—6.5-percent higher than the same period in 2000.

But it noted sales in August confirmed a softening market "due to recessionary trends in the economies, as well as political and social instability.

"We anticipate further softening in the coming months," said the ARA, which tracks sales in Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines and Thailand, the four top markets in the 10 member Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean).

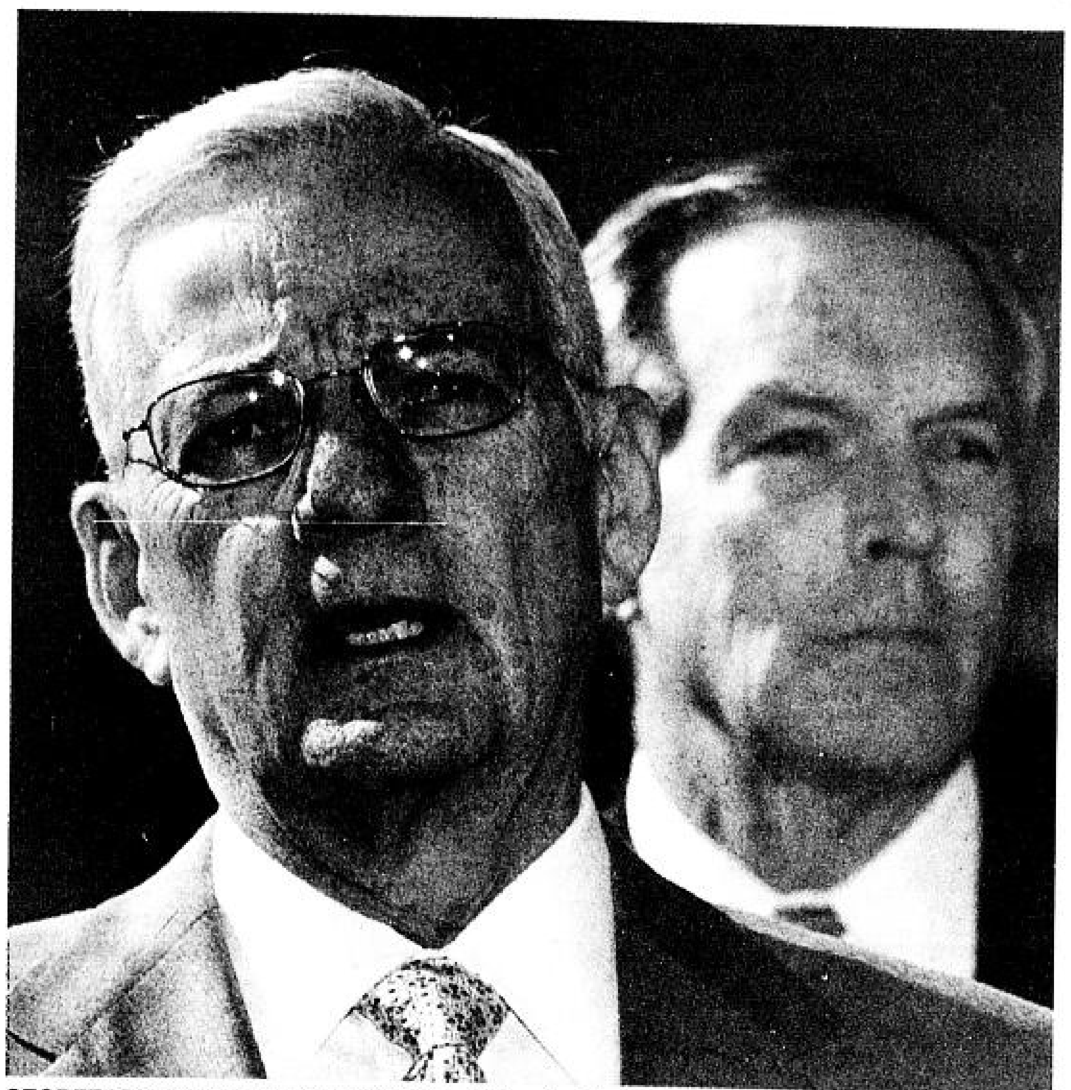
Malaysia was again the market leader with a growth rate of 12.8 percent to post sales of 254,069 units during the eight-month period.

Its national carmaker Proton was the leading manufacturer, with a 23-percent share of the four markets, followed by Japan's Toyota, Mitsubishi and Isuzu. Another Malaysian carmaker, Perodua, came in fifth.

Thailand also posted sales growth from January to August with a rise of nearly 13 percent to 186,630 units.

The Philippines was the worst performer, with sales plunging 11.7 percent to 50,324 units during the period, while Indonesia suffered a 2.8-percent decline to 179,048 units.

In the four markets, passenger cars accounted for 311,892 units sold during the January-August period, while 358,180 commercial vehicles were sold. *AFP*



SECRETARY of the Treasury Paul O'Neill, left, joined by Secretary of Commerce Don Evans, speaks to reporters outside the White House West Wing, following a meeting with business executives concerning the impact of terrorism on the economy, Friday, Oct. 19. O'Neill, seeking to bolster confidence in the wake of the attacks, expressed optimism that the ailing economy would bounce back. AP

Liberalization jitters hit Thailand

BANGKOK—A new law in Thailand has sparked fears the government of billionaire telecoms magnate Thaksin Shinawatra is turning back the clock on market liberalization and becoming hostile to foreign investment.

Ten months after sweeping to power on a populist platform, Thaksin's government has passed a new telecoms bill slashing the limit on foreign ownership in the industry.

Has the government finally made its first decisive move against what many Thais perceive as foreign business dominance, in a bid to undo the painful reforms imposed under its IMF-led economic rescue package?

Thaksin's administration says no.

"The government won't do anything to imply or express that we are against foreign investment," deputy government spokesperson Nahathai Thiewphaingarm told Reuters.

"We shouldn't judge just on decrees of percentage (of foreign ownership) . . . We must focus on the policy Prime Minister Thaksin mentions in every speech he gives, that he welcomes foreigners, but at the same time we must promote our strength, internal economic strength," she said.

But many analysts are worried. The new bill halves the foreign ownership limit on telecoms firms to 25 percent.

"Certainly the indications are that this is part of a broader thing. But it also has to be said that it is far from clear what the telecoms bill actually means," said Richard Henderson of Kim Eng Securities in Bangkok.

Reactions have ranged from dismay at the new law, seen as an obstacle to developing the capital-intensive sector, to assumptions that it will not apply to existing concessionaires, most of which exceed the 25-percent limit.

Whatever the case, analysts say, the bill sends out the wrong signal to investors at the wrong time.

"Thailand needs foreign investment as much as it ever has. A restrictive move puts out a very bad signal," said Peter Brimble of the business consultancy Brooker Group. *Reuters*

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CITIBANK

Hitachi, Toshiba team up to develop software in China

TOKYO—Top electronics firm Hitachi Ltd. and rival Toshiba Corp. said Monday they will team up with other Japanese and Chinese firms to develop software in China, where labor costs are much lower than at home.

"It is cheaper to operate in China but we plan to import the software to Japan afterwards, that is the main target," said Hitachi spokesperson Atsushi Kanno.

The two technology leaders will club together with systems integrator Otsuka Corp. and Tokyo-based software developer Original Soft Co. to launch a 50-50 joint venture in Shanghai with major Chinese software house Top Group.

"We are still awaiting final approval from the Chinese government but we plan to open the firm on October 31, Halloween," Kanno said.

Shanghai Sakura Information Systems, capitalized at 600 million yen ($4.95 million) will sell software to firms in Japan and also China, targeting annual revenue of 2 billion yen.

"It is much cheaper to develop software in China if you consider the labor costs and, also, the level of technology expertise there is very high," said Toshiba spokesperson Midori Suzuki.

"We also plan to open an academy to train technology students in Shanghai," she said.

More and more technology firms in Japan are opening offices in China and shifting production there in a bid to cut costs amid a global hi-tech slump, said Hitachi's Kanno.

"We are not the only ones doing this," he said.

The group will own 50 percent of the venture, with Hitachi and Otsuka taking a 22-percent stake each, Original Soft 4.5 percent and Toshiba the remaining 1.5 percent.

The cost of hiring Chinese systems engineers is about one-third to half that of their Japanese counterparts, making it about 30 percent to 40 percent cheaper to develop software in China than in Japan, the Nihon Keizai newspaper reported, quoting sources close to the venture.

The four Japanese technology firms have already established Nichu Techno Park, a similar joint venture in Tokyo, which is 44 percent-owned by Hitachi and Otsuka, with Original Soft taking 9 percent and Toshiba 3 percent.

"We felt the company had good merits for our business," said Hitachi's Kanno.

Hitachi and Toshiba along with Japan's other technology giants will have to shift more operations to China and other countries around Asia in a bid to cut costs as the technology slump continues to bite, analysts said.

"(Toshiba) is slow to outsource production to other Asian nations such as China," said UBS Warburg technology analyst Yoshiharu Izumi.

"They must include more outsourcing," he said. *AFP*

Daewoo profit up after deal with GM

SEOUL—South Korea's bankrupt Daewoo Motor Co. said Monday that it posted a bigger profit in September on rising sales prompted by a takeover agreement with US auto giant General Motors Corp.

Daewoo Motor said its third-quarter operating profit rose to 35 billion won ($27 million) from $22.7 billion in the second quarter.

In the nine months to September, the company recorded an operating profit of 11.3 billion won on sales of 3.57 trillion won.

Its September operating profit rose to 14.9 billion won from 6.7 billion won in August. It was Daewoo Motor's sixth consecutive monthly operating profit.

Sales in September also rose to 400.2 billion won from 352.9 billion won a month ago.

Even Daewoo Motor's outdated plant in the eastern city of Pupyong recorded an operating profit of 1.2 billion won in September.

GM signed a $2-billion agreement a month ago to take over Daewoo Motor's three plants in South Korea and two of its 12 overseas factories, in Vietnam and Egypt.

The deal, reached at the end of almost a year of tough bargaining, boosted the image of Daewoo Motor, which collapsed last November with an estimated $17.5 billion in liabilities.

But GM is reluctant to buy the Pupyong plant. The US giant has also rejected six passenger car plants in Poland, India, Romania, Ukraine, Uzbekistan and Iran, as well as seven commercial vehicle plants in China, the Philippines, Poland and Czech Republic.

Daewoo returned to profit this year after shedding about one-third of its work force. Creditors have spent hundreds of millions of dollars to keep it going and may have to write off several billion dollars in liabilities.

The deal is part of GM's plan to build up a 5-billion-dollar-a-year business from its new Asian foothold.

But GM, which has yet to complete "due diligence" inspections, faces a militant union, and a controversial five-year ban on layoffs. *AFP*

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Notice is hereby given that Hagemeyer Philippines, Inc. will file with the Securities and Exchange Commission an Amended Articles of Incorporation shortening its corporate life to **November 30, 2001** and thereby dissolving said corporation effective upon approval of the Securities and Exchange Commission.

Any person who may have a claim against the said corporation may present the same to any of its officers at the office of the corporation at 3rd Floor, OAC Bldg., San Miguel Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City.

This announcement serves as official notice to all parties concerned of the dissolution of the said corporation.

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Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late **ERNESTO G. FALCIS** has been settled among his heirs by virtue of an extra-judicial settlement and agreement among heirs with waiver of rights dated July 27, 2001 and acknowledged before **MARIA LOURDES C. BELLO,** consul, City of Los Angeles, California, U.S.A and **DEOGRACIAS B. CONCHU** notary public for Makati City and entered in his Notarial Registre as Doc. No. 16, Page No. 5, Book No. 12, Series of 2001.

Notice is hereby given that the estate of late Alejandro G. Nable has been extrajudicially settled among his heirs as per Doc. No. 211 Page No. 78 Book No. VI Series of 2001 by Atty. Cipriano A. Almazan of Makati City (PDI-Oct.23,30 & Nov.6,2001)

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Cholang falleció el día 20 de Octubre 2001, habiendo recibido los Santísimos Sacramentos y la Santa Unción (q.e.p.d.).

Sus afligidos hermanos **Isabel** (†), **Maria Clara**, **Pablo** y **Luis** (†); cuñados **Celso Lobregat** (†), **Milagros Montalván** y **Alicia Páez**; sobrinos, sobrinas y demás parientes ruegan un recuerdo en sus oraciones para el eterno descanso de su alma.

Sus restos mortales se hallan en el Santuario de San Antonio, Forbes Park.

La Santa Misa se celebrará el miércoles, 24 de Octubre 2001 a las 2 de la tarde en el Santuario de San Antonio y a continuación se trasladará a Manila Memorial Park en Sucat, Parañaque.

ALEJANDRA CARREON CASTRO

*Has joined her husband **DELFIN**, and peacefully rests in the infinite warmth and embrace of our Lord on October 22, 2001 at the age of 81.*

Her loving children **Oliver & Med, Jun & Lilian, Nonong & Marlene, Ador & Ola, Eras, Sessan & Kwok**; her grandchildren **Moppet & Jundee, Marc, Nong Nong, Mayee & Kay, Aileen, Andrea, Alan & Gelo, Isaac & Noah**; her great granddaughter **Tara**; relatives & friends request for prayers for her eternal happiness.

Her remains lie in state at the Saint Alphonsus Mary de Ligouri Mortuary Magallanes Village, Makati City.

Interment will be on Thursday, October 25, 2001 at the Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina, immediately following the 9:00 a.m. Mass.

"And my soul shall be joyful in the Lord.
It shall rejoice in His salvation."

Alejandro Baisas Afurong

"Alex"

Former Solicitor, Associate Judge
and Retired Commissioner

Peacefully joined our Lord on October 21, 2001 at the age of 78.

His beloved wife **Paraluman Bautista-Afurong**; his children **Rene** and **Vina, Mandy, Allen** and **Cathy, Meline** (†) and **John, Edmund** and **Thesz**; grandchildren, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Our Lady of Loreto Parish, Bustillos, Sampaloc, Manila. Interment details to be announced later.

Novena Masses will be held daily at 6:00 p.m. at Our Lady of Loreto Parish, Holy Trinity Church, Balic-Balic, Sampaloc and Sto. Domingo Church, Quezon City.

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

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OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS: ❶ Copy of Death Certificate ❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

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"For what is life? To me, it is Christ.
Death then will bring more." **Philippians 1:21**

COL. REYNALDO PUNO GARCIA

P.A. (Ret.)

Chair, Nora's Woodcraft Ensemble, Inc. (NWEI)
Chair, PGV Development & Management, Inc.

passed on to join His Creator on October 19, 2001.

His wife **Nora Rosa Garcia**; his children **Maria Emilia (Myn), Ray John, Maria Regina (Ynah)** and **Maria Angela (Angel)**; his sisters, in-laws, nieces, nephews and the rest of the family rejoice as he celebrates his life eternal with his Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

His remains lie in state at the St. Alphonsus Ligouri Chapel, Magallanes Village, Makati City and will be transferred to St. Michael's Church, Fort Bonifacio on Wednesday, October 24, 2001 at 5 PM.

Interment will be on Thursday, October 25, 2001 at the Libingan ng mga Bayani, Fort Bonifacio immediately following the 9:00 AM Mass at St. Michael's Church, Fort Bonifacio (located near Libingan ng mga Bayani).

The Young Painter

Miguel Reyes Castillo

born February 19, 1968
peacefully passed into the next life
on October 21, 2001.

His beloved son **Noah Arce Castillo** and Noah's mother **Nini**; his loving father and mother, **Erwin Castillo** and **Marinela Reyes Castillo**; his brothers **Carlos**, **Micah**, **Gabriel** and **Diego** sister-in-law **Jocel**; nephews **David** and **Juan Gabriel**; niece **Meagan**; grandmother **Marina Reyes**; uncles, aunts, relatives and friends mourn his passing and pray for the eternal rest of his soul in the Grace of the Lord.

His remains lie at the Mt. Carmel Hall,
Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Chapel, Broadway, Quezon City.
Cremation will follow the 9 a.m. Mass
in Mt. Carmel Chapel on October 25, 2001.
Interment will take place at Mt. Carmel Ossuary
after cremation.

"Eye has not seen, ear has not heard,
nor has it so much as dawned on man
what God has prepared for those who love Him."
1 Cor. 2:9

On the **Third Death Anniversary**
of

Sol Espiña Hubahib

June 29, 1936 -- October 23, 1998

Her husband **Dodong**; children **Shiela, Melissa** and **Herbert, Tadeo** and **Hazel, Jerome, Cyrille** and **Froilan, Farrah** and all her grandchildren celebrate her birth to eternal life.

In Loving Memory
on the 25th Death Anniversary of

Adalia B. Peñaflorida

who passed away on 24 October 1976

Masses will be offered Wednesday,
24 October 2001 at the following:

Santuario de San Antonio	*Forbes Park*	12:15 noon
Santuario de San Jose	*Greenhills*	7:15 a.m.
St. Alphonsus Mary de Ligouri	*Magallanes*	6:00 p.m.
Our Lady of Beautiful Love	*Merville*	6:00 p.m.
Parish of the Holy Sacrifice	*U.P.*	6:00 p.m.
St. Joseph's Church	*Pototan, Iloilo*	5:30 a.m.
St. Clement's Church	*La Paz, Iloilo*	5:30 p.m.

The family request relatives, friends and pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Whoever serves Me must follow Me; and where I am, My servant also will be.

John 12:16

People, Events & Products

ARIES B. ESPINOSA, Assistant Editor

ASTRAZENECA HELPS SAVE LA MESA WATERSHED

In its second year of partnership with ABS-CBN's Bantay Kalikasan Program, AstraZeneca Pharmaceuticals (Phils.) Inc. once more helped preserve the La Mesa Watershed through a tree planting activity participated in by its employee-volunteers. The La Mesa Watershed is the only remaining forest in Metro Manila sustaining the reservoir that provides water for the 12 million residents of the metropolis. AstraZeneca Pharmaceuticals is a British company engaged in the manufacture and marketing of prescription medicines in the areas of cardiology, respiratory and infection, cancer and gastrointestinal. The company strongly advocates social responsibility, specifically environmental preservation, and promotes a holistic, balanced work and life among its employees.

SENATE BRIEFED ON HOUSING

Representatives of the key housing agencies recently briefed the Senate Commitiee on Housing and Urban Development on the thrusts and directions of the housing sector. Sen. Francis Pangilinan, chair of the said Senate Committee, meets with (from left) Manuel C. Crisostomo, chief executive officer and president, Pag-Ibig Fund, Armando De Castro, secretary general, Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council, and Gonzalo Bongolan, president, Home Guaranty Corp.

OVERDOOR TRACTION SETS

VETERANS DONATE TRACTION SETS TO VMMC

Veterans from Northern Luzon, led by former Representative Simeon M. Valdez recently donated two overhead traction sets to the department of rehabilitation of the Veterans Memorial Medical Center (VMMC). Shown is Valdez and Dr. Rafaelita Javier, department head; Dr. Charity Valdez and Dr. Ma. Antonette Gabua, consultants; Dr. Gracia Valledor, assistant head; therapist Bon Pacis and engineer Ibarra F. Crisostomo.

IIA-P 54th annual convention

The Institute of Internal Auditors-Philippines will hold its 54th annual convention at Fontana Leisure Parks, Clark Field, Pampanga from Oct. 24 to 26. This year's theme is "Internal Auditors: Vital to Control, Essential to Governance." Submit registration forms to telefax 812-2754 or e-mail iia_phil@philonline.com, or register online at www.theiiapconvention.ph-24.com.

Graphic imaging seminar

INDUSTRY professionals on graphics and publishing will have an opportunity to sharpen and expand existing skills and increase productivity by attending the seminar series on digital imaging, producing print materials, interactive media, and creating web video revolution during the Graphic Expo 2001 from Oct. 24-27 at the AIM Acceed Conference Center. For details, call 896-0639, 896-0637, 899-6893, e-mail fiera@info.com.ph, or visit www.fmi.com.ph.

Seminar on entrepreneurship

THE CENTER for Human Research and Development Foundation Inc. is holding a seminar-workshop on "Creative Entrepreneurship: Should You Start Your Own Business?" from Oct. 25-26, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Benitez Memorial Center, University of the Philippines, Diliman, Quezon City. Resource speaker is Rene Esteban, entrepreneurial coach and business product development consultant to various government and private business organizations. For inquiries, call Beth Solquio, 927-9858 or 0919-2399464.

Ateneo Art Gallery features Fil Delacruz

IN LINE with the "unwrapping" of its new acquisitions, the Ateneo Art Gallery's ArtSpeak invites the art public to interact with one of the artists whose works were recently welcomed into its permanent collection. ArtSpeak was launched three weeks ago as an integral part of the public programs of the country's first modern art museum, with Araceli Limcaco Dans as its first featured speaker. On Oct. 24, renowned printmaker Fil Delacruz continues this series of artist's talks at the Print & Drawing Room by examining the intaglio printmaking process, and how this technique applies to the context of his recurring themes. Starbucks Coffee is a proud sponsor of ArtSpeak. Admission is free and open to the public. For more information, call Yolly Arambulo at 426-6001 extension 4160. Museum hours are from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday to Friday, and 8 a.m. to 12 noon on Saturdays.

CEU Pharmacy alumni homecoming

THE CENTRO Escolar University's School of Pharmacy invites all pharmacy graduates to attend the pharmacy grand alumni homecoming to celebrate the 80th anniversary of the school of pharmacy. The event shall be held on Oct. 27, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., at the Fiesta Pavilion of the Manila Hotel. Lots of surprises, prizes and memories await guests. For details, call dean Olivia M. Limuaco at 736-2995 or e-mail omlimuaco@ceu.edu.ph.

Marusi
Techno

DTI CHIEF AT CONSUMER TRADE FAIR

Trade Secretary Manuel Roxas II was the guest of honor at the 1st Consumer Trade Fair, which was organized by the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) and held recently at the SM Megatrade Hall. Roxas also visited the booth of JMS-Marusi Philippines Inc., a progressive company manufacturing electric fans, and is shown here inspecting some of the products of the company. JMS-Marusi products are stamped with the Product Safety (PS) mark of the Bureau of Product Standards. Also shown are JMS-Marusi Philippines officials led by (from left) Johnny Lim, Philip Neri and Fred Say.

STRESS MANAGEMENT

ILOILO BANKERS ATTEND WORKSHOP

Bankers Association of Iloilo member banks recently attended a special workshop as part of their professional development. The high-impact workshop consisted of business economic briefing and creative stress management. The workshop modules covered a better understanding of economic indicators and opportunities as well as interventions for stress management. Renowned consultant/trainer/speaker Ricardo de Vera (third from left) is seen receiving a plaque of appreciation from Bankers Association president Ricardo Padios. De Vera's approach in training is called 'interactive-experimential', which is a new intervention that effectively addresses the paradigm shifts of participants. His expertise is on the areas of marketing, credit management, salesmanship, motivation/attitude, leadership and self-improvement. De Vera can be contacted at 0917-3680781.

'TO LIFE!'

Barcelona Brandy Superior, evokes such lusty toasts from brandy romancers all over the land. Lovers of classic excellence like 'El Maestro' Eddie Garcia and the new breed of fun-loving health conscious drinkers like 'Mucho Macho Man' Carlos Morales find that Barcelona Brandy is the brand everyone will surely agree with. It uses only the finest spirit from the renowned Domecq de Espana.

It's time to change the way you think about vinyl tiles

YEARS of hard work have finally given you your dream house. Now, the only thing left to do is turn it into your dream home. For you to do that, there are decisions that have to be made. For example, choosing the interior options available for your new home. In particular, flooring options. Let's face it, the last thing you want is that people calling your home the bland residence even if your surname is not spelled B-L-A-N-D. Your home is more than an investment. Knowing you made the right decision in your choice of furnishings and seeing your interiors complement each other can be quite relaxing after a hard day's work at the office.

Of course, getting there means having to deal with all the horror stories of yesteryears. Do you still remember that awful cracked ceramic tile that simply ruined your parent's kitchen? Or, stories about friends having to retile their entire foyer all because the tile design they purchased before was no longer available? Definitely, such incidents, if possible, should be avoided. So where does this leave you? Before making any purchases, make sure of what you need and what you don't. Fortunately, the market now offers the homebuyer a wide array of options. You do not need a Ph.D. in interior design or have oodles of cash to make your home beautiful. Gone are the days when choosing one's flooring options was limited to bland and dull.

PLATINUM Designer wood series

Vinyl for your home

Over the past few years, there has been a steady increase in the number of people choosing vinyl flooring over other options. Of course, it cannot be avoided that there are still those who question its durability and practicality. The old type of vinyl is perceived to be hard to maintain because it needed to be waxed frequently. It also scratched easily. However, the construction and make of vinyl has greatly improved over time. Today's technology has made vinyl more durable plus a wider selection of colors and patterns is also now available. More important, vinyl installation cost is only a third to that of ceramic tiles.

The change in the way people have looked at vinyl can easily be found in modern day housing. No longer limited to offices, vinyl has found its way to bedrooms, kitchen floors, foyers and counter tops. In fact, the biggest department stores in the country use vinyl. The decision to use vinyl is a testimony to the product's durability considering the volume of traffic being handled by these stores. Today, corporate and residential users are buying vinyl not just to simply save on costs, but because it makes sense. Vinyl has made its mark as a durable, practical and stylish option.

One product in the market today that one should seriously consider is the APO Platinum Line by Puyat Vinyl Products Inc., the country's largest flooring manufacturer. The company has a clear winner based on how the product has been received by developers and homebuyers. Under the Platinum Line, buyers can choose from the Designer series or the Platinum selection.

"It's cheap and easy to install. It looks like real wood, real stone and real marble. It is easy to clean and easy to maintain, and you don't get the expensive cost," points out Alex Araneta, sales and marketing director of Puyat Vinyl.

The Designer Series offers stone and wood variants, while the Platinum Selection includes marble and granite variants. The product is nothing short of amazing. The texture, colors and graining are similar to real stone, granite or wood. Platinum's marble selection, for its part, has a soft elegant look.

The Platinum Line is available in three gauges to meet a range of performance needs such as light, medium and heavy traffic areas. It is scratch-resistant and easy to maintain. More important, a high performance wear layer allows the product to resist indentation, static loads, abrasions, stains and chemicals. Installation is not a major issue. For a minimum charge, the company will even install the tiles for you. Yet the biggest feature of the product is a 5- to 10-year warranty being offered by Puyat Vinyl.

So far, homebuyers and now builders have taken a liking for the many variants that give the look of wood. They have also taken advantage of the wide choice of additional designs available to create their own look. The result is the warmth and beauty of a natural-looking floor plus hassle-free maintenance.

Bank pledges P5B for first-new home buyers

BPI FAMILY Bank recently launched Express Pabahay and Express First Home, two new special loan packages that promise the lowest rates with the longest payment terms for first-time homebuyers. The bank is setting aside P5 billion for this purpose in support of the government's shelter program.

Express Pabahay provides loans to active members of the Social Security System for as low as P250,000 to a maximum of P500,000 for house and lot packages with a rate of 13 percent per annum fixed for five years. With Express Pabahay, the prospective homebuyer can get as much as 80 percent of the appraised property value and enjoy a maximum loan term of 25 years. This results in smaller down payments and more affordable monthly amortizations.

Express First Home on the other hand, provides loans from P501,000 up to P1.0 million with fixed rate options of 12 percent per annum for two years or 15 percent per annum for five years. The maximum loan term is 25 years for house and lot purchase or construction and 10 years for vacant lot or condominium purchase. Express First Home also provides loans of up to 80 percent of the appraised value for house and lot and townhouse units, and 60 percent for vacant lots and condominium units.

As the leading provider of housing loans, BPI Family Bank will expand its business coverage to the affordable housing sector to support the government's housing program and help jump start the nation's economy.

These loans are exclusively designed for prospective first-time homebuyers who are employed. Priority will be given to companies with payroll arrangements or salary deduction arrangements with the BPI and the BPI Family Bank.

Treating cement floors a wise investment

MAINTAINING large cement floor areas will drain plenty of money from a company's coffers, resources that can be productively diverted to other purposes. An example would be an industrial plant that maintains several dozens of employees, an assortment of industrial equipment and heavy machinery and a load of products and containers, which need to be moved constantly. This plant will certainly need a regular maintenance crew just to keep the concrete floor continually clean, safe and conducive for work.

The combined pressures created by people, equipment and product movement will ultimately result to concrete floor deterioration through erosion, flakes and cracks. With a damaged concrete floor, work is slowed down and productivity is affected. Eventually the concrete floor will have to be rehabilitated with a fresh mix of cement. This will hamper operations indefinitely and further bleed the company's precious resources.

Now imagine if the same industrial plant's concrete floor is protected by Ashford Formula—the only cement finishing protective treatment that is guaranteed to prolong a floor's life span by at least two decades, at a full warranty. The unique bonding effect of Ashford Formula will protect the concrete floor from erosion, chips or cracks even if it is constantly subjected to pressure wheel, materials- and foot-traffic, and from abrasion caused by its contact with sharp metal objects and rough material edges.

In fact, the more the concrete floor is subjected to abuse, the shinier it looks—no need for waxing, applying chemical solutions or hiring a cleaning crew that will work double time every day just to cope with floor dirt accumulation. Just a minimal number of personnel, working a few hours a week, and armed with ordinary mops will be enough to maintain the concrete floor's cleanliness.

And since there will be no cement repairs or replacement for at least the next 20 years, huge savings are realized every year. Ashford Formula can be used to treat and protect new concrete floors or existing ones, prolonging the life span of the latter for years and years.

Ashford formula is America's most trusted cement floor treatment brand. Since its formulation's discovery in 1947, it has been used to treat hundreds of millions of square meters of floor space of companies and institutions across all industries and nations.

In the Philippines, Ashford Formula is exclusively distributed and handled by Tradetek Resources Inc. For further technical details, visit www.ashford formula.com.

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Rebap chapter slates ECP

THE REAL Estate Brokers' Association of the Philippines (Rebap) Mandaluyong Chapter, spearheaded by its president CRB Rosanna B. Regalado, will conduct a continuing education program (CEP) on Nov. 17 and 24, from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., at the Bon Appetit Restaurant, Edsa Shangri-La Edsa Mall, Mandaluyong City.

Professional Real Estate practitioners and speakers have been carefully chosen to handle these topics: Real Estate Trends and Forecasts; Property Management; Real Estate Financing from Top Banking Institutions; Real Estate Taxation—An Update; Real Estate Project Syndication; Land Use and Zoning; Feng-Shui, Effects on the Real Estate; Appraisal for Real Estate Brokers; and Information Technology for Real Estate Practitioners.

For more details and early registration, please contact the secretariat (Vicky or Michelle at 373-2280 to 81; CRB Evangeline A. Yia, chair of education and information, at 635-6027 or 746-0237; or CRB Joel Oppus at 0917-8168618) or send your e-mail at rebapmandaluyong@netscape.net.

PMRB sets realty seminar and review

The PASAY-MAKATI Realtors Board Inc. is holding its 52nd Comprehensive Real Estate Seminar and Review for the upcoming licensing exam for real estate brokers to be given by the Department of Trade and Industry/Bureau of Trade Relations and Consumer Protection on Nov. 25 at the PSBA in Quezon City.

The PMRB has always been in the forefront of real estate education since institutionalizing its educational programs, which have benefited professionals of different disciplines including lawyers, architects, engineers, bankers, developers as well as landowners. They have found the PMRB seminars to be highly informative and practical in its content and structure.

The seminar and review will be held on Nov. 5, 7, 9, 12, 14, 16, 19 and 21, from 6 to 9 p.m. (Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays), at the Asian Institute of Management, Paseo de Roxas, Makati City. All lecture materials will be provided.

For more information, please call up the PMRB secretariat at 893-0569 and 893-0585 or e-mail at pmrb@broline.com. Registration is now ongoing at Unit 502-P Parking Building, Cityland 10, H.V. dela Costa Street, Ayala Avenue, Makati City.

Bleak . . . (From page 12)

from asbestos. John Balass, president of James Hardie Philippines who is also a guest speaker during the Balangkasan, said that when his company faced the challenged of whether to continue using asbestos in their products, they decided otherwise and looked for an alternative no matter how extensive and costly the retooling was.

"We decided that it was well worth the costs if weighed against the social and human costs—which are the health risks they pose on people—if we did not retool," said Balass. The company's Hardie fiber cement products are asbestos-free and have applications in the exterior and the interior of a building, from exterior siding and internal lining, to roofing, fencing, bracing and decorative finishes.

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Bleak future for asbestos in RP

BY CHARLES E. BUBAN

IT all started when asbestos was found to be a health hazard some years back. Several countries have banned the substance as a result, although a number, like Canada, have resisted pressure to outlaw the material. Various campaigns came out thereafter detailing why its use should be stopped completely while a few fought for its regulated use.

Recently, a group of architects in the Philippines echoed their concern regarding the country's continued patronage of asbestos. Last week, participants in the forum spearheaded by the United Architects of the Philippines, were unanimous in suggesting that increased effort be made to develop substitutes for asbestos, so that the country will be "truly free from harmful substances that poison our bodies and the people's well-being."

Architect Michael Tomeldan, chair of the Balangkasan: The Architect's Forum, explained that the event is an opportunity for the UAP to identify existing laws and regulations and to determine whether these provide adequate protection for the health and safety of Filipinos. "Architects should be fully informed about the risks posed by certain construction materials before we even recommend their use," he said.

Former Securities and Exchange Chair Perfecto Yasay Jr., one of the principal discussants during the Balangkasan forum, noted that there is surreptitious reentry of asbestos from the local market despite several medical studies and research showing the substance's carcinogenic properties.

"Existing government policies on the use of asbestos ban certain types, but also regulate types supposed to be less harmful, Yasay said. Shall we continue to use asbestos in our products, when overwhelming evidence has shown that asbestos poses grave risks to the health of the people?" he asked.

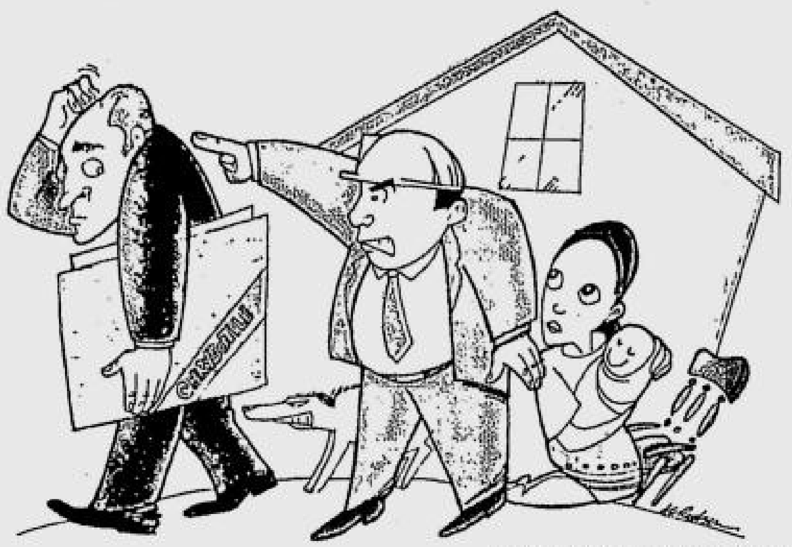


ILLUSTRATION: ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

Speaking in behalf of the Trade Undersecretary for Consumer Welfare Andrian Cristobal Jr., Jesus Motoomull of the Department of Trade and Industry's Bureau of Product Standards assured that the Consumer Welfare Group is in the process of ascertaining facts and effects of asbestos in health.

"We will immediately conduct a thorough investigation into new revelations that the asbestos substance is now being imported in high quantities, because this even increases risk of exposure to the toxic substance," Motoomull said.

Banned in EU countries

This recent campaign to free the country from asbestos came as a reaction on recent developments elsewhere in the world where several countries have taken steps in curbing asbestos use.

In 1991, the 15-member European Union banned five types of asbestos, and intends to outlaw the remaining one in use (known as chrysotile or white asbestos) by 2005. However, five EU member states still allow the use and import of chrysotile (Spain, Portugal, Greece, Ireland and Luxembourg). The United Kingdom banned the use of chrysotile in 1999.

The only exception to the ban is the use of chrysotile in diaphragms, which are used for electrolysis in certain chlorine plants. They are the only current use of chrysotile asbestos for which it is not technically possible to substitute without creating a safety problem, according to the European Commission.

Announcing the long-term ban in July 1999, the European Commission said, "No threshold level of exposure has yet been identified below which chrysotile asbestos does not pose carcinogenic risks."

Leading exporter reacts

One of the countries most affected by the order was Canada, the world's leading exporter and second largest producer of chrysotile asbestos, producing some 320,000 tons in 1998, and accounting for 18.2 percent of the global output worth around US$225 million annually.

In December 1996, France decided to ban asbestos in all forms. The ban covers the production, transformation, sale, importation and marketing of asbestos and asbestos products, with certain exceptions for applications where safer substitutes do no exist.

Prior to the ban, France was Europe's biggest importer of chrysotile from Canada.

Despite the carcinogenic character of asbestos, Canada had claimed that France was not entitled to prohibit the import and marketing of certain asbestos products—in particular, chrysotile cement—because health risks could be substantially reduced if adequate precautions were taken.

Canada calls itself a global leader in the sustainable development of natural resources, and claims asbestos' safe use principle has solid scientific backing. The country contends that chrysotile can be used safely in products such as building materials, brake linings, and water and sewer pipes. Integral to safe use is a cement or resin matrix that encases chrysotile asbestos fibers stopping them from dispersing into the environment.

The Canadian government argues that chrysotile asbestos is safer than many alternative products and perfectly safe to use and install if adequate safety measures are taken.

Landmark decision

In 1999 a panel from the World Trade Organization has ruled that France did not violate international trade rules when it banned asbestos. The panel decided that the ban was legitimate because the WTO rules allow countries to restrict trade where necessary to protect human health or the environment.

The WTO's Appellate Body in Geneva upholds the panel's decision. In a landmark finding, the Appellate Body said that health considerations must be taken into account when interpreting antidiscrimination rules, and products entailing health risks cannot be compared with safer substitutes. Governments can therefore treat dangerous substances differently, said the Appellate Body.

Other countries were not in a position to challenge the French ban since Russia (the world's biggest producer that supplied 35.8 percent of global chrysotile asbestos at 630,000 tons in 1998) and China (that produced 14.2 percent at 250,000 tons in 1998) are not WTO members. Other WTO members like Brazil and Zimbabwe, which are the world's fourth and fifth leading producers, respectively, have registered their concerns about the French ban.

Health risk

Asbestos is a fibrous mineral found naturally in nearly two-thirds of the Earth's crust. It was long used in construction and manufacturing because it is incombustible, durable, versatile and resistant to most chemicals.

Asbestos materials can release microscopic fibers when disturbed or crumbled (during handling, sawing, scraping or sanding). These fibers can remain afloat in the air. After they are inhaled, they can remain and accumulate in the lungs. Most people with asbestos-related diseases were exposed to elevated concentrations on the job while some developed disease from exposure to clothing and equipment brought home from job sites.

Exposure to these asbestos fibers can cause lung cancer, mesothelioma (a cancer of the chest and abdominal linings), and asbestosis (irreversible lung scarring that can be fatal). Symptoms of these diseases do not show up until many years (usually about 20 to 30 years) after first exposure to the dusts.

The American Lung Association, the US Consumer Product Safety Commission and the US Environmental Protection Agency reported that the risk of lung cancer and mesothelioma increases with the number of fibers inhaled and those who smoke are even more at risk.

Most people exposed to small amounts of asbestos, as we all are in our daily lives, do not develop these health problems.

Alternative to asbestos

Due to the potential health effects of asbestos, there is a need to develop safe substitute materials. However, suitable replacement materials are not yet available for several important applications of asbestos, such as in brakes and some types of fireproofing. Also, the potential health risks associated with exposure to many of the fibrous materials being proposed or used as substitutes have not been yet well-studied.

However some of the companies now are moving to free their products

BLEAK/B11

Uses of asbestos in buildings

Most buildings built before 1990 employed so many asbestos-containing materials. At present there are no government agency inspecting the state of these asbestos materials. The following list enumerates the sections or structures in buildings or houses where asbestos can usually be found. Better check them out and report to the proper authorities if you suspect they are already falling out or showing signs of disrepair.

Sprayed coatings ***(on steel work, concrete walls and ceilings, for fire protection and insulation)***

Sprayed coatings are probably the most lethal way in which asbestos is used. It was common for many sprayed asbestos products to contain up to 85 percent asbestos, much of it in the blue form. Between 1935 and 1971, it was used extensively in public buildings for acoustic and thermal insulation and fire protection of structural steel work. It was common in system-built council housing; in boiler houses and ceilings to balconies and walkways. It is not unusual to find this material to be soft, friable and therefore extremely dangerous.

Lagging *(insulation on pipework, boilers and ducts)*

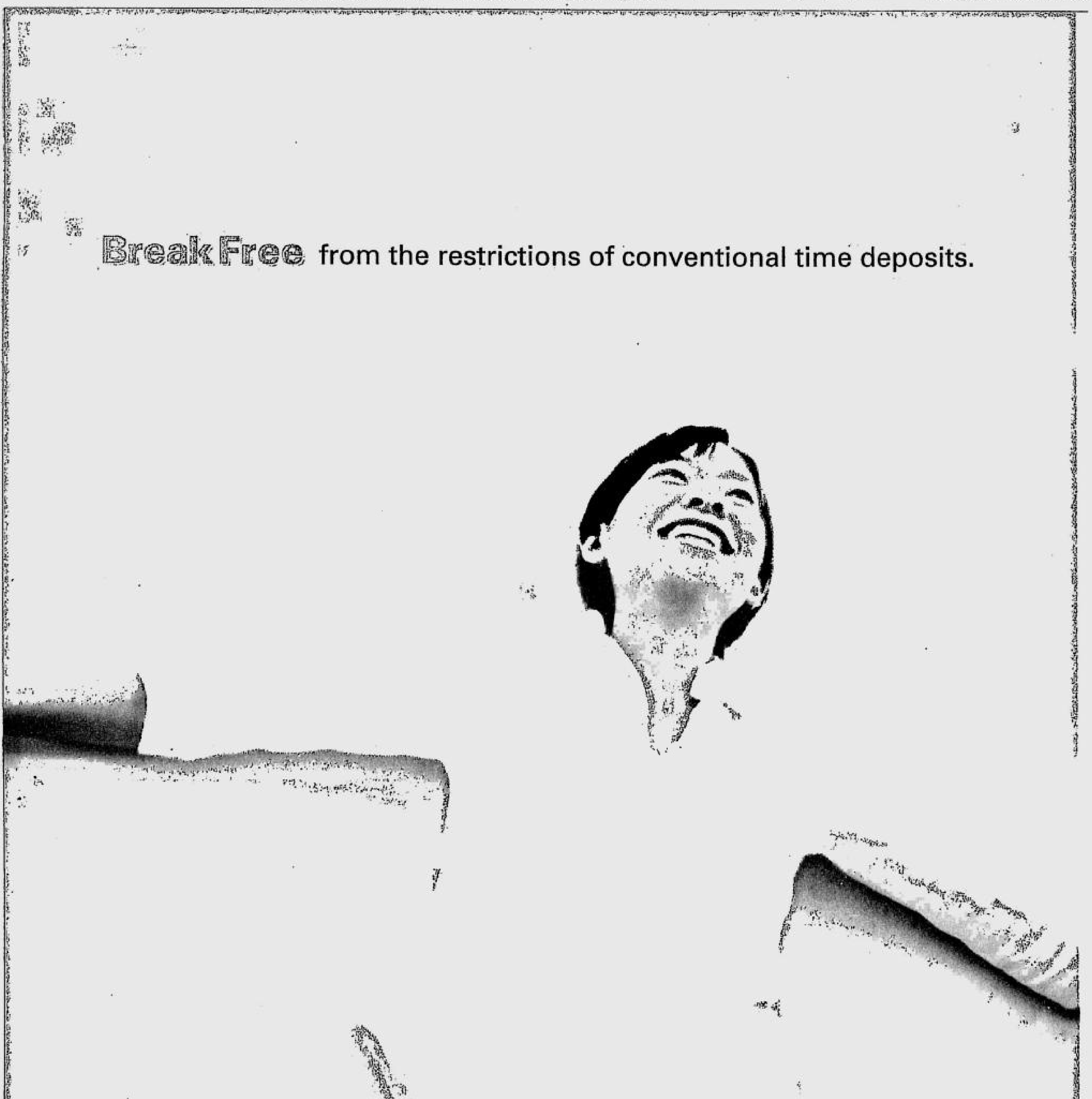
Lagging is frequently just as deadly. It was used around heating pipes and boilers especially in factories, hospitals and other public buildings. It has been found to give very high dust levels in service ducts where it is easily disturbed during maintenance activities.

Insulation boards ***(in partitions, fire doors, and ceiling tiles. Common brand names are Asbestolux, Turnabestos, LDR, and Marinite)***

During the 1950s, 1960s and 1970s, amosite (brown) was the main type in insulation boards that were used in stairways, curtain walling, partitions, and fireproof panels. They are found in system-built council housing, hotels and schools. Other uses include heating ducts, linings to doors and meter cupboards, and in heating units. Insulation boards from this period typically contain 16-25 percent asbestos. Often they have a soft greyish appearance.

Asbestos cement products ***(sheeting on walls and roofs, tiles, cold water tanks, gutters, pipes and in decorative plaster finishes)***

These have been extensively used in buildings and mainly contain white asbestos in concentrations of about 10 percent. Asbestos slates, tiles and linings behind fires are of similar composition. Fibers are released from such materials with age, when the material is damaged, and during routine maintenance activities such as drilling, sanding, wire brushing, machine sawing. All these activities can produce dangerous concentrations of asbestos dust.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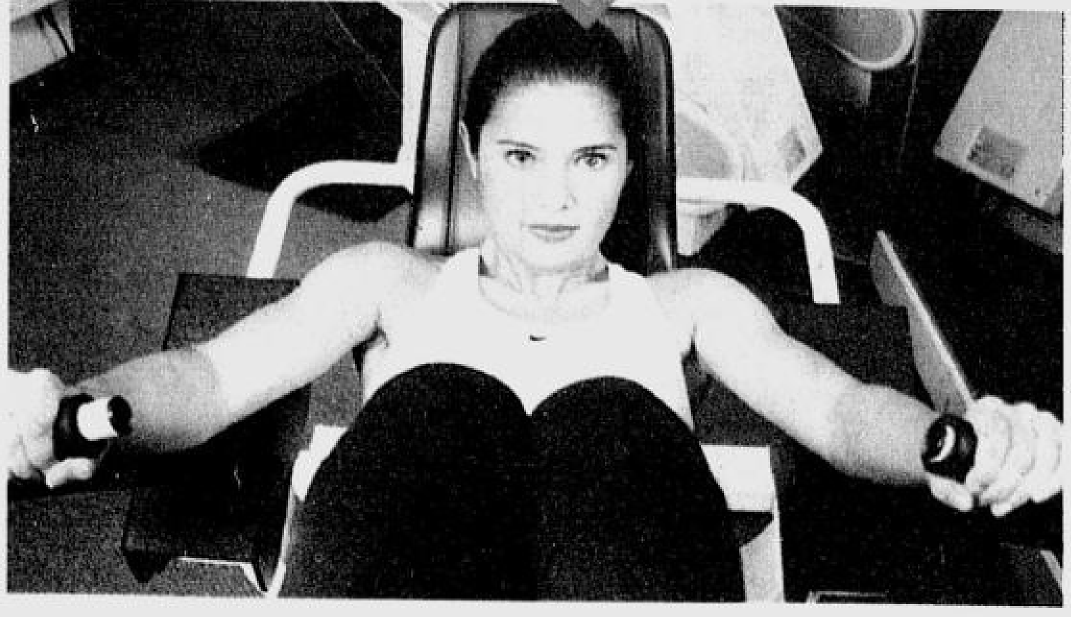
Powerpuff star

Show biz dazzler Vina Morales feels good and looks even better, thanks to weight training, tae bo, yoga and stress management



VINA on the rowing machine, giving her biceps a workout.

By Ricky T. Gallardo
Photos by Jay Javier

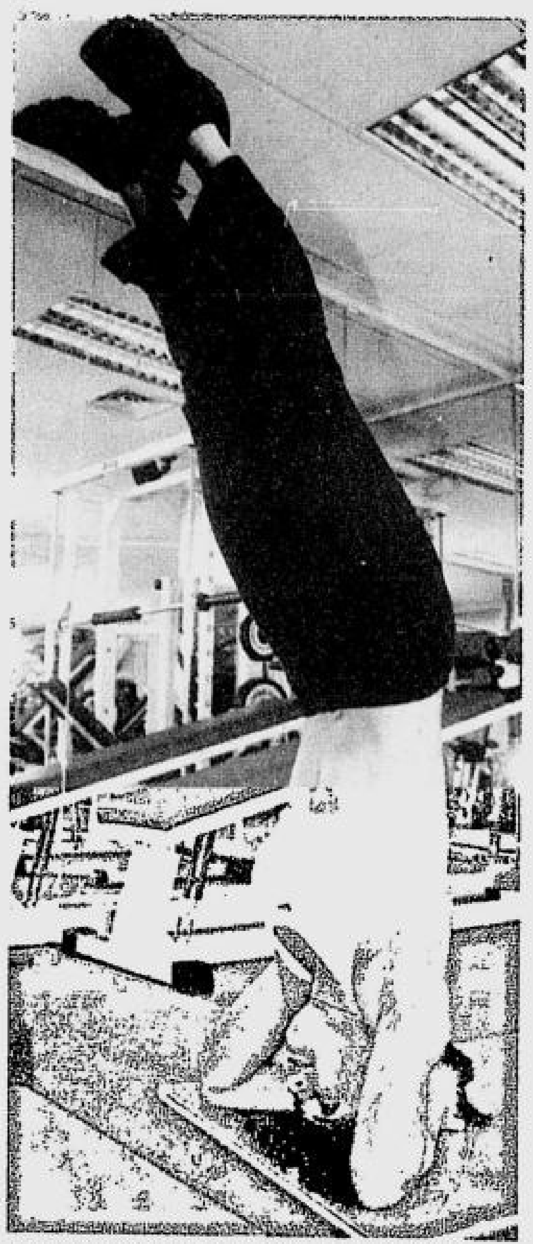
TO BE a multimedia star is no walk in the park for anyone in the biz. Aside from juggling shows, concerts, films, recordings, photo shoots, junkets, ribbon-cuttings and more shows, one has to deal with the stress of maintaining a public image often misunderstood, scrutinized and maligned.

How does one cope then? Singer-actress Vina Morales offers this basic yet sensible solution: love yourself—mind, body and soul. For the local pop princess, the best way to achieve this is to find ways to feel good about oneself by engaging in regular body and mind exercises and various physical and sport activities.

"When I turned 18 I became aware of the excess baby fat that stored in my body. And I thought that to achieve staying power in this business, I have to look good and be fit. I dance and sing all the time and I need to build stamina and lung power," Morales says.

She used to like walking. While doing round after round at the Ultra oval, she would sing to herself until she was able to master control of her diaphragm, thus regulating her breathing the proper way. But she soon got bored with her regular walks, not to mention that the city had become too polluted.

POWERPUFF/P.C2



SHE finally learned to do a headstand.

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BALANCED Clean variant interpreted by Katrina Goulbourn

Mane event features Barretto and Sotto

VOLUME and fullness variant interpreted by designer Tipi Ocampo

GRETCHEN Barreto in an Inno Sotto gown

IN A RARE public appearance, the reclusive Gretchen Barretto sashayed down the ramp at Glorietta 4 Park as the latest Pantene Pro-V collection image model in "What Women Want," the hair show that launched the new Pantene Pro-V collection.

Barreto first appeared on stage in a Randy Ortiz gown and brought up the finale in an Inno Sotto. In her brief appearance, Gretchen emphatically got her message across—women empowerment.

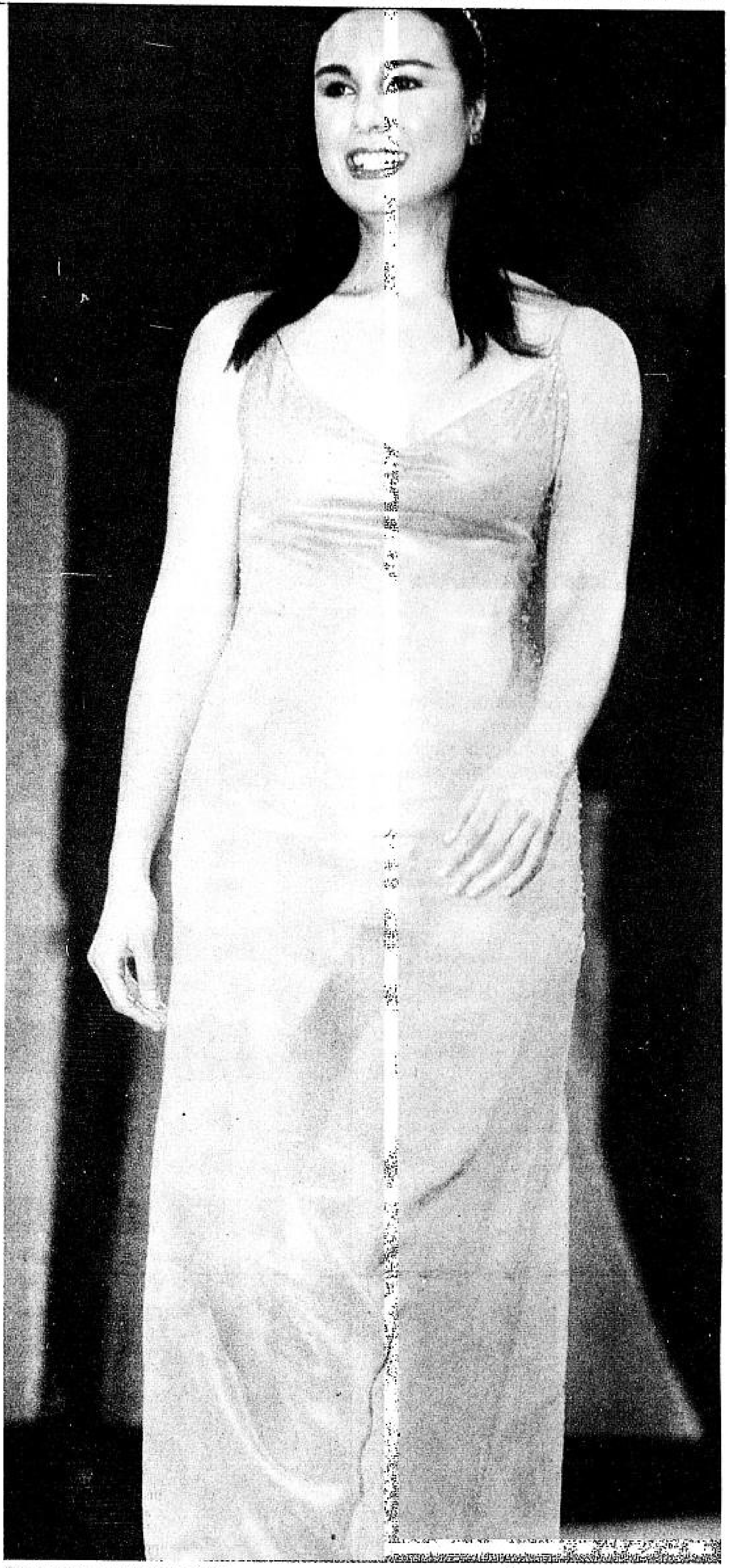
Since Procter & Gamble (P&G) made the shift from the traditional type-of-hair focus (oily, dry or normal) to the "end look" result or to what a woman wants her hair to be, empowerment has meant women can now have a variety of options regarding hair grooming.

In a fast-paced, head-turning show directed by Robbie Carmona, Gretchen, with some of the country's top models—Elite winner Lucia Santiago, sisters Rissa Samson and Raya Mananquil, and Ivy Vong—made a collective pitch for the new Pantene Pro-V variants.

Each variant was interpreted by young designers Tipi Ocampo (for volume and fullness), Dennis Lustico (for anti-dandruff), Katrina Goulbourn (for balanced clean), and by the country's most sought-after designers Sotto and Ortiz, for Smooth and Silky.

Meanwhile, hair change took place at a fast clip inside the Pantene Pro-V interactive booths where fashion and beauty experts dispensed hair grooming as well as makeup tips to curious and inquisitive women among the crowd.

ANTIDANDRUFF interpreted by designer Dennis Lustico



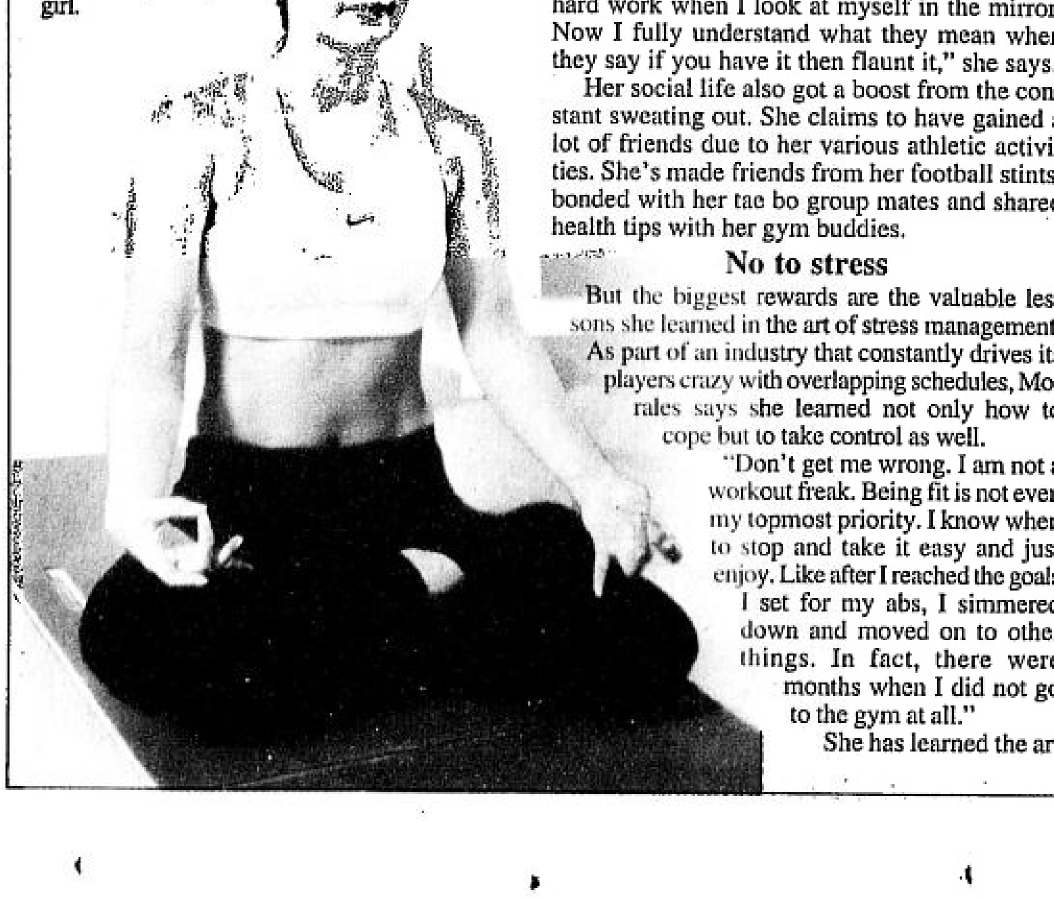
BARRETO in a Randy Ortiz

Powerpuff star

(From page C1)

She shifted direction. Taking her cue from superstar Madonna, she found herself heading to the gym for more walking—on the treadmill this time—aerobics, cardio workouts and serious weight training.

"People here don't appreciate toned muscles in women. That's a shame. Unlike other countries where people consider you a bombshell if you're toned, here they think a woman should look soft and frail and always svelte," says the powerpuff girl.



Feeling good

Despite the initial frowns, she was persistent, going as far as complementing her retinue with tae bo and a host of other sports such as American football and softball. "I try different sports because a routine can get tiring after some time," she says. "This way, I am able to continue with my physical fitness regimen and discover new things to learn and I have fun at the same time."

Eventually, people started appreciating her new form. And Morales felt good. "I feel great about myself now, and that's more important than the good things I hear from other people. I feel good about being disciplined and focused. I've been determined to look the best and healthiest that I can, and I see the fruits of my hard work when I look at myself in the mirror. Now I fully understand what they mean when they say if you have it then flaunt it," she says.

Her social life also got a boost from the constant sweating out. She claims to have gained a lot of friends due to her various athletic activities. She's made friends from her football stints, bonded with her tae bo group mates and shared health tips with her gym buddies.

No to stress

But the biggest rewards are the valuable lessons she learned in the art of stress management. As part of an industry that constantly drives its players crazy with overlapping schedules, Morales says she learned not only how to cope but to take control as well.

"Don't get me wrong. I am not a workout freak. Being fit is not even my topmost priority. I know when to stop and take it easy and just enjoy. Like after I reached the goals I set for my abs, I simmered down and moved on to other things. In fact, there were months when I did not go to the gym at all."

She has learned the art of moderation. Whenever Morales feels she's putting on weight, she cuts down on carbohydrates and sugar. Protein, she maintains, is your best bet. "But not protein from meat. There are other sources," she says.

Morales says she needs at least seven hours of deep slumber every day, or she gets grumpy. "I [try to] sleep as much as I can. *Kung mapuyat man ako*, I see to it that I make up for lost sleep hours by really finding time. It's also important for my voice."

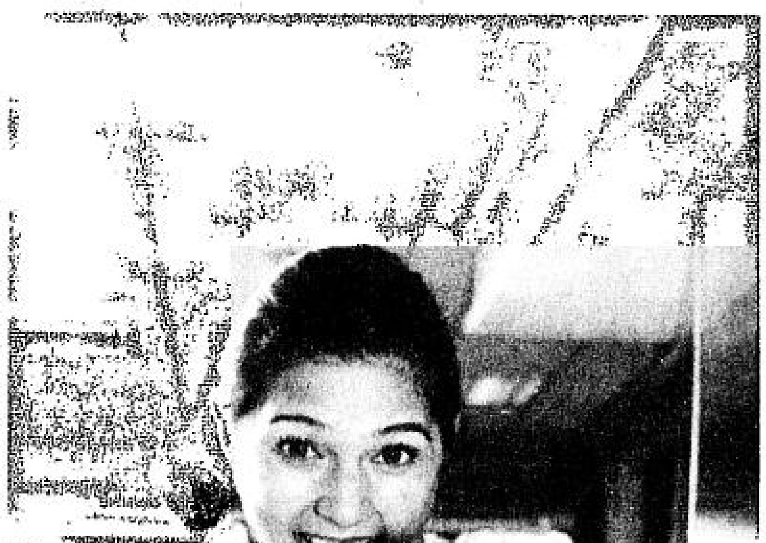
A regular exercise day for Morales goes like this: she wakes up at around 11 a.m. then takes brunch. Off to the gym for a three-hour workout and aerobics. After that, when time permits, she goes to the spa, which to her is "one of my greatest pleasures, I wish I had more time to do it."

Early this year, Morales discovered the wonders of yoga. "It all started when the yoga masters of Madonna and Demi Moore came to town. Some friends convinced me to attend the special sessions and I got stuck somehow."

In the beginning, Morales balked at the very exacting discipline the art of yoga requires. Flipping through books and seeing some of the difficult positions (like the head stand), she thought one has to be gifted to be able to do it.

"*Pero nagawa ko din* eventually. I guess it's just a matter of giving yourself time to learn the techniques. Yoga is more on breathing deeply and correctly. A yoga practitioner also goes into different physical and nonphysical levels *kaya* sometimes I use up a lot of my energies. You really sweat a lot when you try the positions. There are times when, after a session, I just want to go home and sleep. *Pero meron namang* meditation after doing the physical stuff so *nakakabawi ka din*," she says. "To be effective in anything, there ought to be real balance—yin and yang, give and take, contract and release."

In the future, she wants to try out bungee jumping, one of the few things she has not done yet. "One of these days I just might," she muses. Until then and beyond, Vina Morales continues her reign as the fittest female star hereabouts.



A PUNCH from Vina could send you reeling.

Residential gym focuses on wellness

APART from being the latest word in luxurious urban living, One Roxas Triangle has an exclusive gym with a great view and the most modern equipment to date.

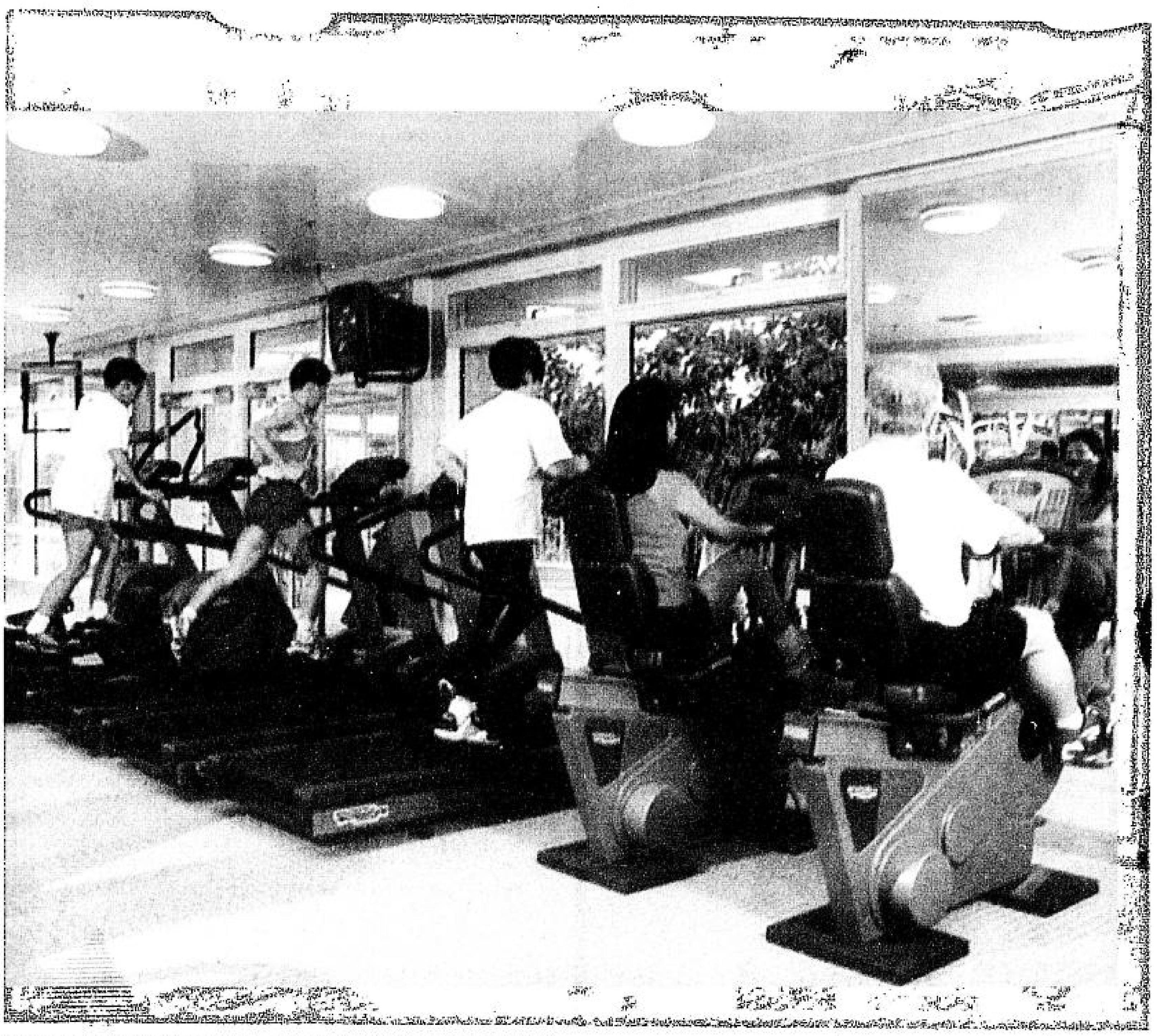
The Roxas Fitness Center was designed in tandem with a fitness consultant to include an aerobics area, wet and dry sauna, a massage area, separate shower and locker areas for men and women, each with a small receiving area and a spacious changing room that offers an enviable view of Makati.

The Roxas Fitness Center is equipped with Technogym's Selection line, the same training equipment used by athletes during the Sydney Olympics. Designed in Italy, the equipment's sleek black lines are a far cry from the angular design of most manufacturers.

"The Roxas Fitness Center is currently the only residential gym with the most state-of-the-art equipment in the market," says Guy Owen, managing director of SPORTathlon, an international professional coaching company and health club developer. SPORTathlon has been charged with managing the Fitness Center for Ayala Land Inc., developer of One Roxas Triangle, along with Hong Kong Land and Bank of the Philippine Islands.

Form follows function, and Owen says that the equipment not only are aesthetically pleasing but they also conform to the body's natural movements. "The elliptical cross-trainers, for example, are different from the cross-trainers currently installed in other gyms which move in a circular motion. But human legs do not naturally move in a circular motion. When you run, you do so in an elliptical pattern. Hence, the design for Technogym's running equipment."

But equipment alone does not a fitness center make. Roxas residents can also expect to be trained by fitness professionals that focus on their overall wellbeing. "Our concept for the Roxas Fitness Center is one of wellness," says Owen. "Wellness is a new lifestyle paradigm that combines physical activity with proper nutrition and lifestyle adjustments to promote overall physical, mental and emotional wellbeing."


WORKOUT at your own pace—with a magnificent view of Makati.

Holistic

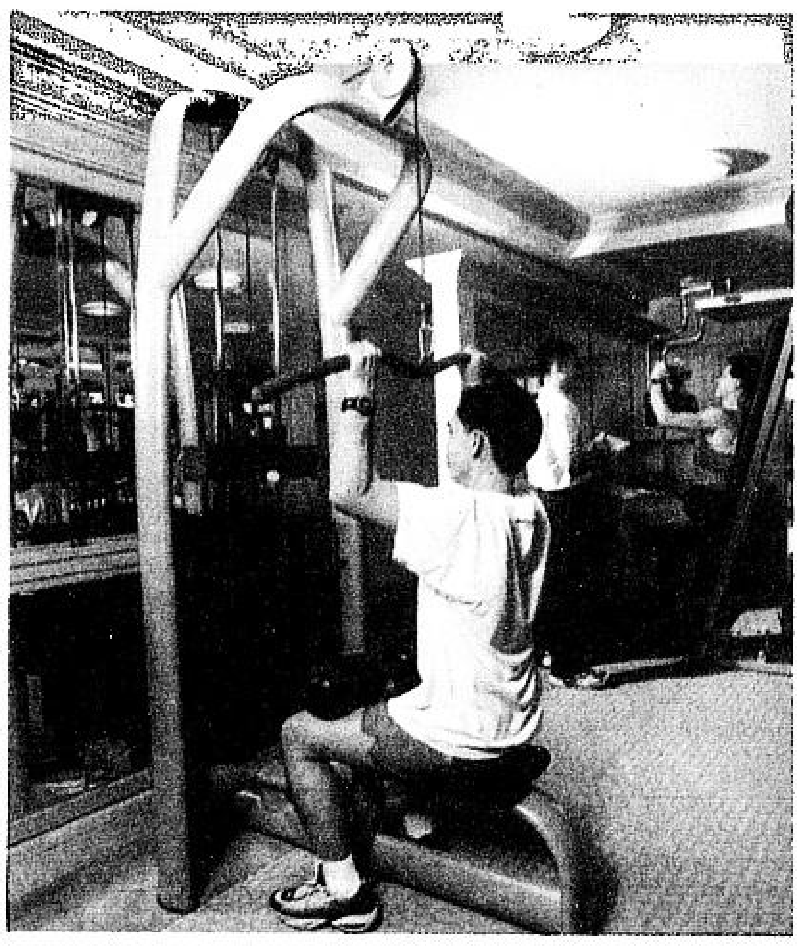
This Fitness Center has two to three instructors who are certified physical therapists trained not only in injury prevention but also in proper nutrition. SPORTathlon regularly sends its managers and department heads abroad for training in the latest fitness and nutrition techniques.

"Most of the staff come from the service industry and their experience and training focuses on client satisfaction above all else," adds Rafael Blardony, project manager of SPORTathlon. "Unlike other gyms, the staff at the Roxas Fitness Center does not offer wholesale fitness for everyone regardless of body type and physical capabilities. Our approach is highly personalized. Before we even start our members on any program, we discuss their health objectives, their physical condition, etc. For instance, not everyone wants to lose weight. Some may just need to firm up their muscles and so we work on that," he says.

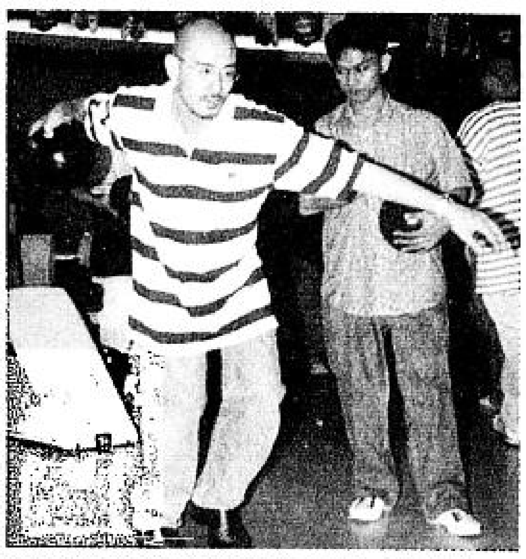
But what he really wants is to promote the center's wellness concept. "We don't want to simply focus on the physical. The objective of wellness is holistic and involves both mind and body. A person can be physically fit but if s/he is constantly under mental and emotional stress, then s/he is not totally okay."

"Most of the executives who work out in the gym do so because they want to work off the day's stress. But a lot of them push themselves too hard and end up exceeding their physical limits, which is bad," he explains. "That's where the wellness concept comes in. We give them a program that would help them manage their stress in a manner that is physically acceptable. The key to our programs is not just physical fitness but lifestyle adjustment."

Owen says they have a lot of plans in terms of fitness offerings, but much of it will depend on what the members want.


TOP-LINE equipment develop those muscles.

Bowling as PE course keeps students fit


INSTRUCTOR Edward Coo, son of hall famer Bong Coo, gives basic bowling tips.

STUDENTS from the University of the Philippines and the Informatics Computer Institute were among the first to avail of bowling as an alternative Physical Education course at the SM Bowling Center.

Former members of the Philippine Bowling Team have developed Bowling 101, SM's bowling program for schools. And students who have opted to choose bowling as their PE sport say this has not only kept them fit, but has also been a lot of fun.

Lauren de Dios, a freshman college student at Informatics Megamall, had gymnastics, dancing and swimming for PE during high school. "We bowl for fun," she says. "And we also learn skills like timing and balance." De Dios' classmate Everett Abayari, on the other hand, says that bowling "is interesting."

Jonathan Malabanan, who's also taking his PE alternative at the SM Bowling Center, agrees that "bowling is fun." A well-rounded athlete who has tried tennis, lawn tennis and basketball in the past, he's now in the first level, learning Bowling Safety and Etiquette.

"I really learn a lot," he says. "We have lectures on Skill Drills and the Balance Line Drill, which teaches balance and leverage."

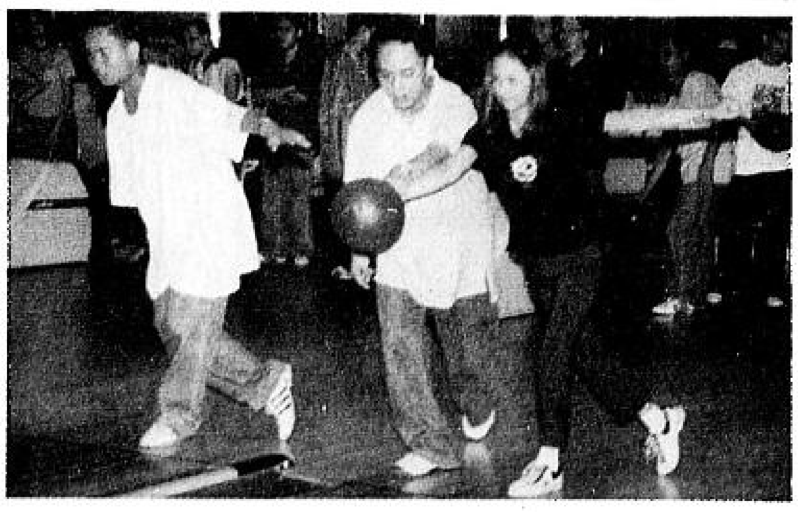
Bowling 101's first semester seeks to develop the student's bowling skills through the five feelings of bowling, namely the Lift, the Pendulum Swing, the Straight Swing, the Perfect Release and Balance. This course is designed to develop these skills through classroom lectures, training skills and practical on-lane lessons.

The second semester, known as the science and knowledge level, is designed to allow the students deeper understanding of the methodologies involved in a complete bowling game. All students shall be expected to use their personal numbers in making the adjustments to find the pocket, and be capable of using the sparing methods to consistently convert spares. This will also equip them with the knowledge on how to analyze their performance on the lane.

The course has written examinations, review of questions and answers, and league play at the end of the course. Inclusive in the fee are the use of bowling lanes, rental of bowling shoes, instructional skills, practical tests, as well as the professional services of coaches like Edward Coo, son of two-time world champion Bong Coo; Pete Ayala and Walter Enrique Inguito.

Get bowled over and have lots of bowling learning and fun with Bowling 101. Call the SM Megamall Bowling Center at 633-7054/55, and the SM City North-Edsa Bowling Center at 929-3320.

WARM-UP exercises with coach Edward Inguito and PE class students from Informatics Centerpoint.


THE RHYTHM of the Swing Drill with coach Orlyn Batistil and PE class students from Informatics

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Lift weights to lose weight

I BELIEVE that an effective weight-loss program is like a three-legged stool. The three legs are diet (the right amount of calories), aerobic exercise (walking, jogging, etc.), and weight-lifting (also known as strength training or resistance training). Most people are familiar with dieting and aerobics but don't consider weight-lifting a weight-loss tool because they think it is only for huge-muscled bodybuilders. Yet, lifting weights can do what dieting and aerobics cannot. It can make you burn more calories throughout the day, not just during the workout.

WELL AND GOOD

Tina Aboitiz Juan

ILLUSTRATION: ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

Lifting weights can do what dieting and aerobics cannot. It can make one burn more calories throughout the day, not just during the workout

Raises metabolic rate

Your "basal metabolic rate" is the rate at which you burn calories at rest during a 24-hour period. These are the calories needed to stay alive or to maintain all the cells of your body. Muscles are the most metabolically active tissue. Muscle cells are "calorie-hungry" while fat cells do not require many calories to function. The more muscle mass you have, the higher your metabolic rate.

There are three types of muscle tissue—smooth, cardiac and skeletal. Smooth muscles are the muscles of your intestines, blood vessels and other organs. Cardiac muscles are only found in your heart. Skeletal muscles are the muscles attached to your bones. Since you cannot change the amount of smooth or cardiac muscles you have, the only practical way to increase your metabolic rate would be to increase your skeletal muscle mass. This is achieved by lifting weights.

Muscle size decreases with age

Experts think that one of the reasons that people gain weight faster as they get older is that they lose muscle mass at the rate of half a pound for every year starting from the age of 25 if they don't exercise. Since muscle is a calorie-burning tissue, every pound of muscle lost will result in a decrease of approximately 30-50 calories per day. It's not surprising then to hear people complain that they are eating the same amounts of food as when they were younger but are continuing to see the pounds creeping up. They are burning fewer calories because their muscles have become smaller. Calories that are not burned are stored as fat. The muscle mass in the body decreases while the fat mass increases.

Lack of exercise to blame for muscle loss

Muscle that is not used atrophies or shrinks. A dramatic example of this is seen in the affected limb of a polio victim. The muscle is shrunken because it is no longer functioning. Of course, muscle atrophy due to lack of exercise as one gets older doesn't happen overnight so the damage is not noticeable until a decade later when the individual discovers that he or she is "suddenly" 15 pounds heavier.

Weight-lifting prevents muscle loss

Aerobic-type workouts are great for burning calories and increasing the efficiency of the heart, but don't do much for building muscle mass. Lifting weights is the best way to prevent muscles from getting too small. It will not only prevent more muscle loss but it can also reverse the process by building up muscle that has already been lost so you will burn more calories throughout the whole day. Your body becomes like a car that has the same frame but a bigger engine.

In addition, that's not all what lifting weights will do for you. It will also improve your posture, prevent osteoporosis (bone brittleness), increase your strength and tighten your muscles to transform you into a shapelier, slimmer you.

Different kinds of weight-lifting equipment

Dumbbells and barbells are not the only type of weights you can lift. Resistance comes in many forms. There is rubber resistance like surgical tubing and wide rubber bands made especially for exercise, which are quite practical when you travel since they weigh very little. There are machines with cables attached to metal stacks of weight. Your own body is a form of resistance when used in exercises like push-ups and abdominal exercises. Exercise done in water is a form of weight training because the water creates resistance.

Weight-lifting guidelines to lose weight

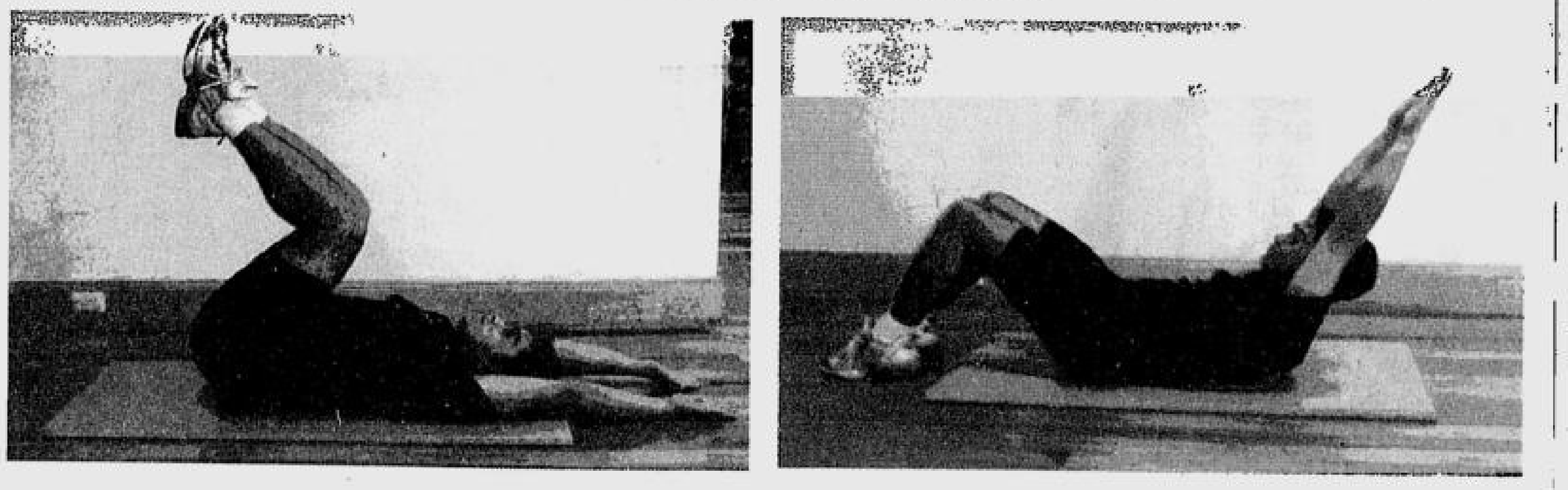
Understand the difference between muscle weight and fat weight. Many people panic when they don't see the needle on the scale budging. They immediately assume they haven't lost any fat. When you lift weights, your muscles become harder and tighter. This means they are getting heavier but occupying a smaller space than they previously did when they were flabby and loose. This explains why an individual who lifts weight finds that his body is smaller and firmer but he hasn't lost much weight on the scale. The goal is to gain in muscle weight and lose in fat weight. Judge progress by how your clothes fit or by a body fat composition test, not what the scale says. Don't be afraid that your muscles will become too big. Remember that you are replacing muscle mass that has been lost. It takes a lot of effort (several hours a day) and large amounts of weight to become as big as those male and female bodybuilders you see on TV and in magazines.

Lift weights at least twice a week (three times a week is ideal). Do an aerobic workout on the other days. Do at least one exercise for every major muscle group (like the arms, legs, shoulders, back, abdominals, etc.) Use a weight that you can only lift 10-12 times before you get tired. These are moderately heavy weights. If you can only lift the weight six to eight times, it is considered heavy and if you can lift the weight easily for 15-20 times, it is light. You need to lift a weight that is heavy enough to increase your muscle mass but not so heavy that it will give you larger than normal muscles. When you can easily lift the weight for 12-15 times, increase the poundage by 5 percent. If you want a time-efficient workout, research studies have found that one set of 10-12 repetitions will give you the results you are looking for in the initial stages (approximately three months for most people) of the program. Increase to two or three sets after that.

The Association of Fitness Professionals of the Philippines (AFPP) will hold the 2001 National Fitness Convention on Nov. 24 and 25 at the Edsa Shangri-La Hotel, Ortigas Center, Pasig. International presenters are Lawrence Biscontini (Group Exercise), Dr. Mark Slavin (Personal Training) and John Young (Fitness Management). Mr. Biscontini will hold a Fitness Yoga Certification on Friday, Nov. 23 and a Resist-a-Ball Certification on Sunday, Nov. 25. For more details, call 842-0567.)

E-mail the author at fitness@ibm.net or write to PDI Lifestyle.

EXERCISE OF THE WEEK



Abdominal rocker

STRENGTHENS the abdominal muscles.

Equipment:

Exercise mat

Exercise technique:

1. Lie on your back with your knees together, feet on the floor and arms extended above your head.

2. Lift your torso and lower; lift your legs and hips and lower.

This is considered one repetition.

Performance tips:

1. The basic variation is the technique mentioned above.

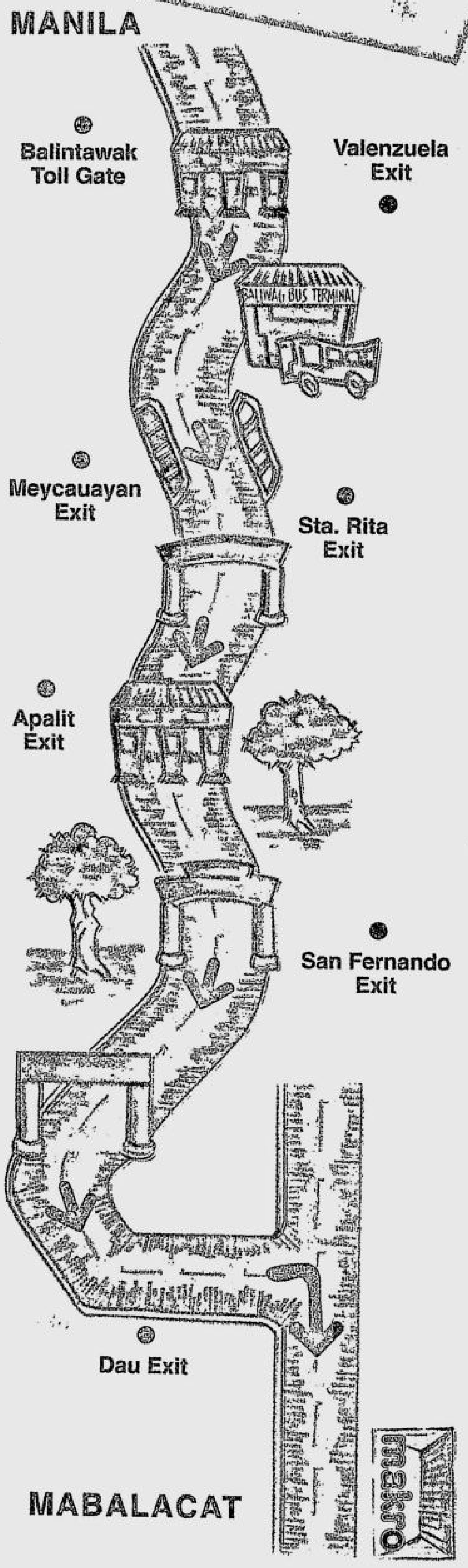
For a more advanced version, do a rocking motion. Lift your torso and as you lower it down, simultaneously lift your legs and hips. When you lower your legs and hips, simultaneously lift your torso and so on.

2. Control the excess movement in the spine when you lower your legs by contracting the abdominal muscles (Pull your navel toward your spine,).

Repetitions:

Do 10-12 repetitions.

Ito ang daan papunta sa makro store 8



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Tracking the success secrets of RP runners

TEXT AND PHOTOS BY JOHN AGUILAR

THE EIGHT gold medal haul of the Philippine track and field team during the recently concluded South East Asian Games in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia was the product of years of training, planning and excellent timing. Each medal won by our athletes tells a story of perseverance and strength of body and character.

Unlike the perennial favorite boxing team, track and field hardly showed the promise that it now holds, that is save for the 1991 Manila Sea Games team led by Lydia de Vega.

> Besides good nutrition, coaches and athletes are now more aware of just how much load the body can take

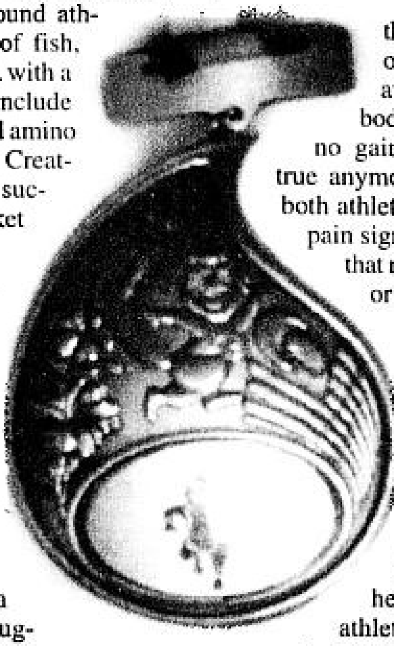
Nutrition factor

Since the 1991 SEA Games, numerous developments in training and nutrition have helped our track athletes fulfill the Olympic mantra of faster, higher, stronger. Fidel Gallenero, who won the gold in the grueling 10-event decathlon, explains that supplements and good nutrition have played an integral part in his quest to become the meet's best all-around athlete. His diet consists mainly of fish, chicken and vegetables, coupled with a full supply of supplements that include Vitamin C, E, multivitamins and amino acids. He also admits to taking Creatine, one of the most popular and successful supplements in the market today.

Good nutrition, however, does not come cheap. Gallenero admits to spending at least P5,000 a month for his supplements alone, since anything extra is not shouldered by the Philippine Sports Commission. With the meager allowance he gets from the PSC and the Philippine Navy of which he is a part, one wonders how this family man pulls off the feat. It is a difficult, and at times painful, juggling act which he—like many athletes before him—is forced to master.

Aside from nutrition, a greater knowledge of the body's physiology has made our coaches and athletes more aware of just how much load the body can take. The adage "no pain, no gain" does not necessarily hold true anymore in modern sports. Today, both athletes and coaches recognize that pain signifies an injury or abnormality that needs to be treated immediately, or given time to heal and recover.

PROUD tracksters show off their medals.



New mentality

National team coaches Isidro del Prado and Alex Ligtas are living proof of this new mentality. "*Dati, nahihiya ang mga athlete magsabi sa coach kung may masakit o hindi na nila kaya*," Del Prado says. Now, he says that it is crucial for the athlete to communicate any aches and pains to his coach to avoid aggravating any injuries.

Ligtas, on the other hand, makes it a point to adjust the load of his athletes whenever they feel pain or a recurring injury coming. Like Del Prado, Ligtas stresses the importance of communication. "*Importante na naguusap-usap ang mga* coaches *at* athletes *kung may problema sila at kung may kailangan, at kung nahihirapan sila*," he says.

When SEA Games long jump silver medalist Lerma Balauitan sustained a sciatic nerve-related injury, she was made to undergo a period of therapy under the guidance of Ligtas. Balauitan relates: "*Nagpahinga muna ako at nag*-training *sa* swimming pool. Swimming *at takbo sa tubig lang, at* massage *ng* husband *ko*." With hydrotherapy techniques and rest, Balauitan managed to leap to a silver medal finish in the long jump and cop a bronze for the century dash.

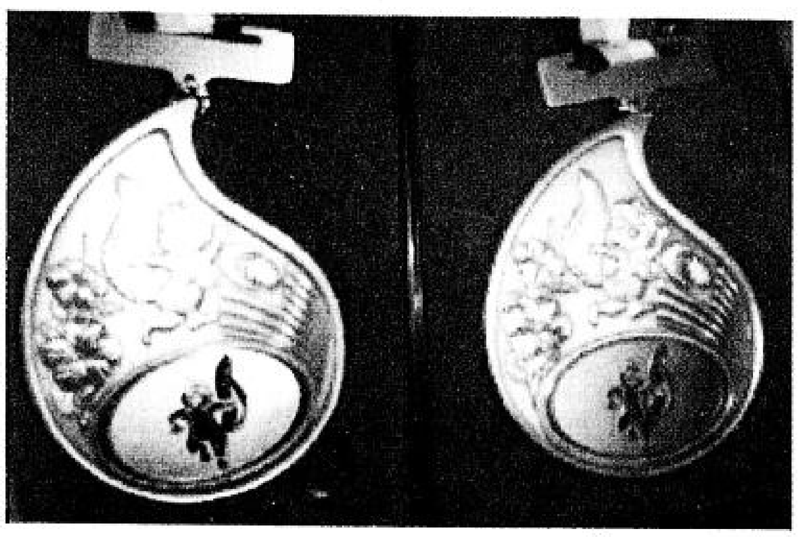
RP sprinter Jimar Aing had a similar bout with an injury that would not go away. After running in the 400-m dash heats, Aing and coach Del Prado decided to forego the 400-m final in favor of the 4 x 400 m relay, where they had a good chance of placing in the top three. Because of the sacrifice, the relay team was able to place second in the relay and bring home the silver for the Philippines.

The Baguio factor

The track and field team was also fortunate enough to be transferred from their Manila base, a move initiated by Philippine Amateur Track and Field Association chief Go Teng Kok.

Not a few track and field aficionados are aware that RP's long distance runners are based in the City of Pines, where almost the entire RP track

THE SECRETS/ p.D3



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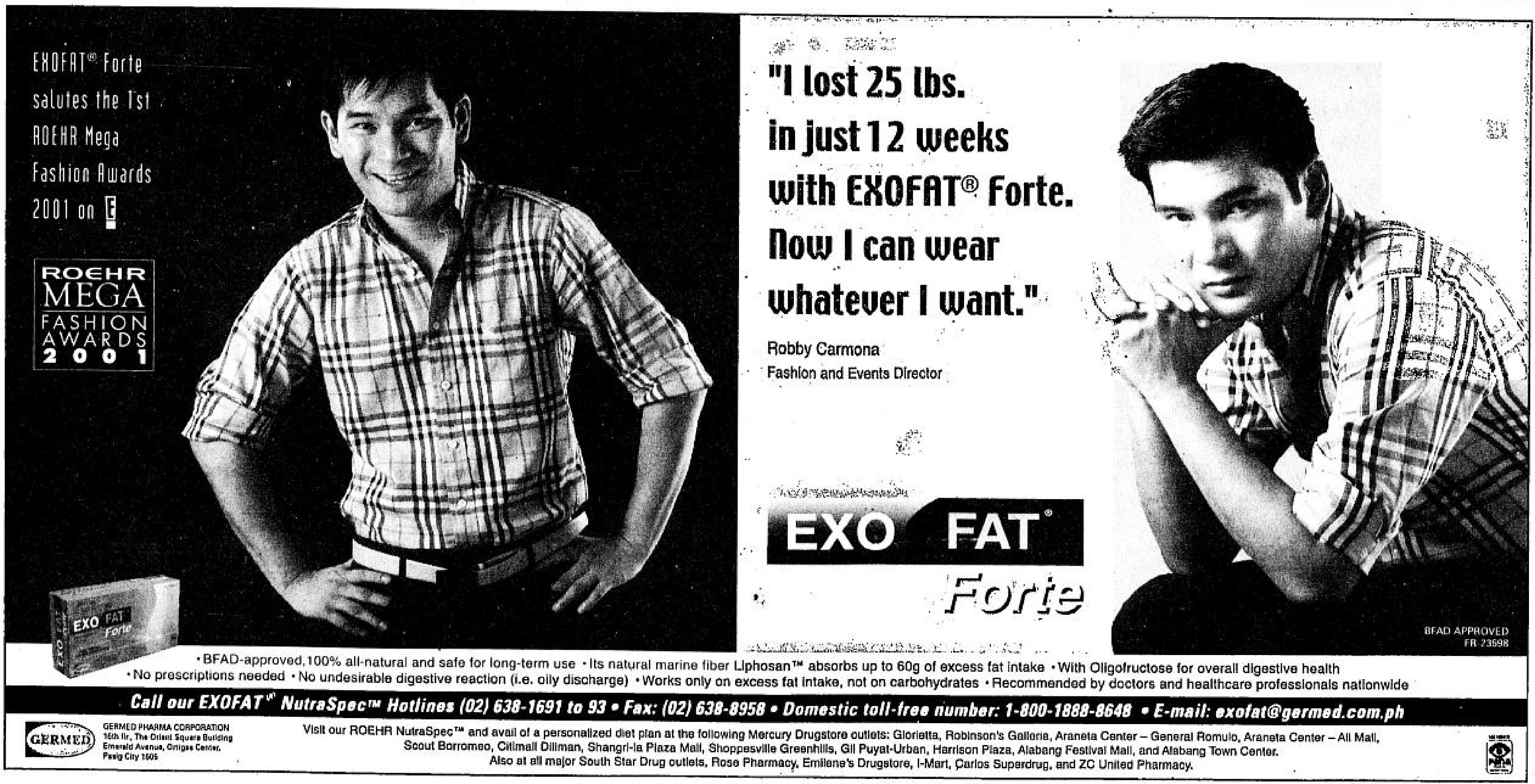

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INTENSITY 7 earthquakes. Landslides. Vehicular accidents. Big blazes. As many disasters as you can think of, as often will we need blood by the gallons. We frequently hear of people dying due to lack of blood after experiencing external or internal bleeding. This happens even if a victim makes it to the hospital.

Dr. Carmen Narciso, head of the Blood Bank and Transfusion Service as well as the Hematology Section at St. Luke's Medical Center, is reassuring when she speaks of the availability of safe blood and the standby readiness of her blood bank. "There should be no shortage of blood," she says, "because where there are people, there is blood. Unfortunately, blood is abundantly available but not easily accessible. Less than 5 percent of eligible blood donors in the country give blood voluntarily. Education in this aspect is the best tool in motivating future donors," she says.

Since she started hematology practice after training abroad in the late '60s, Dr. Narciso has championed the cause of voluntary blood donation. Prior to 1994, she successfully promoted voluntary blood donation at the Philippine Heart Center while serving as its blood bank head for 15 years.

Involving the family

Starting with a program called the "Patients' Blood Replacement Responsibility" where she actively involved the patients' family in securing safe donors for relatives about to undergo cardiac surgery, she slowly worked out an all-volunteer blood program for the center. The idea came from a Chicago hospital where she was asked to bring in her own donors, should she need cardiac surgery after the procedure. Fortunately, surgery was not necessary.

In 1994, she joined the Institute of Pathology at the St. Luke's Medical Center as its blood bank and hematology chief. She saw the need to expand its facilities to give way to providing a safe and uninterrupted blood supply as part of the hospital's continuing pursuit for excellence in patient care.

Several programs were set up to increase the number of blood donors and totally eradicate the use of unsafe blood donors whenever possible. Families were involved in providing safe donors for their relatives and blood drives were organized within and outside the hospital community. The Blood Donor Center was opened to organize such drives systematically.

By 1998, SLMC had established an all-volunteer blood program, which it enjoys to this day, and has been the recipient of many awards from the Department of Health.

Strict screening of donors through interviews, physical examination and blood tests are designed to protect both the giver and the recipient. Counseling of deferred donors is provided and free assistance is offered should they need medical help. Aside from conventional methods of blood collection, a special procedure called "apheresis" allows the collection of several traits of specific blood components from a single donor using a blood cell separator machine. This minimizes patient exposure to too many donors, making the blood component much safer for transfusion.

Should the demand for blood exceed the hospital's supply, Metro Manila hospitals through the Department of Health allows the sharing of available blood units. This system, of which SLMC is a member, requires that participating institutions strictly observe the same safety precautions in blood sourcing, collection and screening. A clearing house has also been designated to facilitate the exchange of available blood units among member hospitals both government and private. The Red Cross, of course, has been the leading source of blood for the country over the years.

Dr. Narciso said her staff take extra effort and initiative to ensure safe and uninterrupted blood supply for their own patients and to lessen dependence on other sources for the good of those whose lives have to be saved through blood transfusion.

Phytonutrients in grapes good for our health

GRAPES contain many substances that provide many benefits to our health. Collectively, these substances are known as phytonutrients.

Phytonutrients are biologically active compounds found in plants. These compounds perform vital functions in plants, like maintaining color, firmness and even protecting plants from disease.

When we eat fruits and vegetables, these phytonutrients enter our system and have a profound impact on our health. Research on grapes, in particular, has yielded information on just how grapes promote health.

So far, four phytonutrient compounds have been the focus of scientific research: resveratrol, catechin, anthocyanin and quercetin. Catechin, anthocyanin and quercetin are also known collectively as flavonoids.

Cancer is a disease that occurs when our cells are damaged by molecules known as "free radicals." Unfortunately, free radicals are produced in abundance within our bodies due to several factors: natural metabolic processes, exposure to pollution and other environmental contaminants, unhealthy diet, and stress.

While the production of free radicals in our bodies cannot be avoided, it has been discovered that phytonutrients can counteract the effects of free radicals. This is because phytonutrients produce molecules that attach themselves to free radicals. This not only prevents free radicals from attaching onto our cells, but also transforms these same free radicals into harmless substances.

One phytonutrient that has been subjected to research for its potential as a cancer-fighting agent is resveratrol. Resveratrol has been found to have the potential to prevent the formation of tumors or even destroy those that have already formed. Scientists are now trying to find ways to apply this ability of resveratrol in the fight against cancer.

Dr. Michael Rozien and a team of medical researchers in Georgetown University in the US have recently discovered that phytonutrients in grapes help slow down the aging process and prevent the hardening of arteries, one of the main causes of heart disease.

In their research, published in the June 12 issue of Circulation, a magazine dedicated to cardiovascular health, subjects were asked to drink two cups of grape juice for two weeks. At the end of the study, blood tests on the subjects showed increased levels of Vitamin E and nitric oxide. These substances are known to reduce clot formation and relax blood vessels.

According to Dr. Rozien, the presence of resveratrol and flavonoids in grapes means that grapes have the potential to decrease the risk of cancer, stroke, heart disease and memory loss.

Fortunately, we don't have to wait until Dr. Rozien and other researchers around the world fully understand the healthy effects of grapes, or produce some cancer-fighting and anti-aging pills from the phytonutrients in grapes.

According to Dr. Rozien, eating fresh, whole grapes, as well as drinking natural grape juice and red wine, which both contain rich amounts of resveratrol, can help make us healthy.

KIDS learn online the health value of grapes.

WELCOMES
MAYOR BENHUR ABALOS

THE DR. Victor R. Potenciano Medical Center (VRPMC) inaugurated its Physicians Center recently. The VRPMC Physicians Center is on Edsa, Mandaluyong City, across VRPMC hospital. It is envisioned to be both a doctor's dream and a patient's haven because of its modern facilities, quality health-care service, unique interior design and pleasant ambience. From left, DOH secretary Manuel Dayrit, VRP Medical Staff Organization president Dr. Rosario Gabriel and VRPMC chair and president Irma Potenciano, cutting the ceremonial ribbon.

Take Charge Doc!

Nicky S. Montoya, M.D.

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Looking to learn more about your benefits under your MEDICard coverage? Do you want to be clear on the procedures, which allow you to avail of MEDICard's services? Get your information straight from MEDICard's Medical Director, DR. NICKY S. MONTOYA every Tuesday.

FAQs (frequently asked questions)

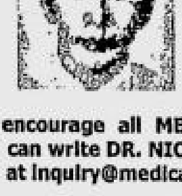
With the recent scare, I would like to confirm if Anthrax is covered under my MEDICard program?

Yes it is covered. Anthrax, is an acute infectious disease caused by the spore-forming bacterium *Bacillus anthracis*. It most commonly occurs in mammals such as cattle, sheep, goats, camels and antelopes, but can also occur in humans when they are exposed to infected animals or tissue from infected animals. The illness is covered up to the limits of dreaded disease. Vaccines for Anthrax are available, but these are not included in the healthcare program.

Meet your MEDICard Team

University of Santo Tomas Medicine graduate, **Dr. Esther C. Leynes** is MEDICard's accredited service provider based in Makati Medical Center. Dr. Leynes, as commonly referred to by her patients, earned her residency training in Dermatology-Internal Medicine from UP-PGH. She pursued further studies, subspecializing in Cutaneous Laser Surgery at the Harvard Medical School. Dr. Leynes is currently the chairman of a special committee on Lasers for the Philippine Dermatological Society. To update herself on the developments of her profession, she regularly goes out of the country to attend meetings and conventions. During her easy days, Doc Esther spends her time playing the piano, reading and working out at the gym. Visit her for your consultation needs at room 203, every Mondays to Fridays from 9:30 AM to 2 PM and on Saturdays from 1 to 4 PM.

Pediatrician, **Dr. Trinita A. Gubat** is MEDICard's accredited specialist in University of Perpetual Help Medical Center (UPHMC) in Las Piñas City. Dr. Gubat is a graduate of Medicine from the Southwestern University in Cebu and took her specialization residency training from Perpetual Help Medical Center. She has been in practice of her profession for more than 10 years now and has been rendering quality healthcare service to MEDICard members since 1995. Doc Trinita is a valued member of the Philippine Pediatric Society and the Las Piñas Medical Society. She is married to Ben Gubat and has three wonderful kids. For your consultation needs, visit Dr. Gubat's clinic at room 401 of the Medical Arts Bldg. of UPHMC, from Mondays to Saturdays, 10 AM to 12 noon.



Laguna based MEDICard accredited specialist is **Dr. Oscar M. Brion**. Dr. Brion, based in San Pablo Doctors Hospital, is a Medicine graduate of UERM-MMC and specializes in General Surgery, where he earned his residency training from UP-PGH. Doc Oscar is a Diplomate and Fellow to the Philippine College of Surgeon and the Philippine Society of General Surgery. You may visit Dr. Brion for your medical services, every Mondays to Fridays, except Thursdays from 9 AM to 12 noon.

We encourage all MEDICard members to voice out their concerns and issues at hand. BE HEARD AND BE READ. You can write DR. NICKY S. MONTOYA at 9/F Sagittarius Bldg. H.V. De la Costa St., Salcedo Village, Makati City or e-mail him at inquiry@medicardphils.com.

For individual or family membership inquiries, please call 818-2161 and look for Ms. Joy Mendiola. For group or corporate membership, please call 817-5136, 817-4985 or 817-5127 and look for a membership consultant.

TEXT MEDICard for your queries: 0917-7518365 (Globe) or 0919-2476240 (Smart). Please don't forget to include your complete name and landline number where MEDICard could reach you. *Log on to www.medicardphils.com*

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Fun activities for a healthy lifestyle

THE ROCKWELL Club offers an array of services for health and fitness.

Members, both adults and children, can attend classes held at its gym and studio, and in the children's activity center.

For this month, Rockwell Club members can try the new White Cloud Breathing and Stretching Technique, cardio funk classes, tai chi, spinning, cardio kickboxing, yoga, aerobics, stretch and sculpt or boxing classes. If music is a consideration, one can try Latin Aero or Street Jazz with Wilson Ong of Whiplash.

Eureka offers a scuba diving teaser class for the water-inclined. The club's five pools offer a uniquely enjoyable swimming experience. Basketball, tennis and squash enthusiasts also get their fair share with regular trainers at the courts. Indoor soccer and taekwondo classes are available as well as a class on children's ballet led by no less than renowned dancer Edna Vida.

Courses are created with the member's total well-being in mind. If a member would like to indulge in relaxing massage and facials from the comfort of their own condo unit, the Rockwell Club now offers the convenience of scheduled condo room service. Club members can also cross over to the Power Plant for special privileges at Power Bowl. Monday nights have been specially scheduled for club bowling.

Rocky's, the club's children's activity center, does not run out of events either. Kids can enjoy art workshops like wet chalk painting or bookmark making, film showings and field trips. For Halloween, the Rockwell Club will stage its largest "Kids Halloween Party" on Oct. 31 at the Sunken Garden. Children can come in their scariest costume and enjoy scary entertainment, loot bags, game prizes and snacks.

Call The Rockwell Club at 897-8310.

ROCKY'S, The Rockwell Club's activity center for kiddie members, provides fun activities, field trips, art workshops and unique learning experiences for all its visitors.

Cosmetics walk-in centers offer shopping convenience

NU SKIN Phils. operates in seven walk-in centers all over the country, namely, Ortigas, Makati, Quezon City, Pampanga, Davao, Iloilo and Leyte-Samar.

The center is a one-stop shop that carries Nu Skin's premium products like Nu Colour cosmetics, Hair Care, Epoch, Nu Skin 180, MHA, Nu Expression and nutritional dietary products like LifePak, Optima Omega, FibreNet, Tegreen, CordyMax & OverDrive. It has a self-service concept where distributors can choose and purchase products on display. It also houses a training room where seminars and promo/product development updates can be held.

Nu Skin also offers other means of ordering for the convenience of its distributors, such as online shopping where they can purchase products through the Net, phone order or fax order.

The company continues to constantly update itself on the latest trends and technology to be able to give the best service to its distributors and customers.

Call 689-0333 or visit at www.nuskin.com.ph.

Salon marks grand opening

PIANDRE Salon Greenbelt marks its grand opening on Oct. 23 with a beauty series dubbed "Make-Over for the Working Woman."

For four consecutive Tuesdays, Oct. 23 and 30, Nov. 6 and 13, Piandre will be giving demos and free consultations on hair color, hair styling, makeup and hair care from 12 nn-7 p.m. at the Center Lobby, Greenbelt Mall, Ayala Center Makati (near Delifrance).

Attendees also get a chance to win raffle prizes and makeovers. Piandre Salon in Greenbelt Mall is open daily from 7 a.m.-10 p.m.; Sundays, 9 a.m.-8 p.m. Call 816-3884/4002.

Tracking the success secrets of RP runners

(From page D1)

CONGRATUL
PHIL. TRACK & FIELD TEAM T

PLANET Krypton helped athletes turn in golden performance.

contingent was isolated for two whole months prior to the SEA Games.

Conditions in Baguio were quite unnerving for those who were used to training in Manila's Rizal Memorial oval and Philsports (formerly Ultra) oval. The chilly weather, lack of distractions and frequent downpours were not exactly to the liking of the athletes, but in the long run, the stay helped them gain a clearer focus of the task ahead. It also gave them something which they were not getting enough of back in Manila.

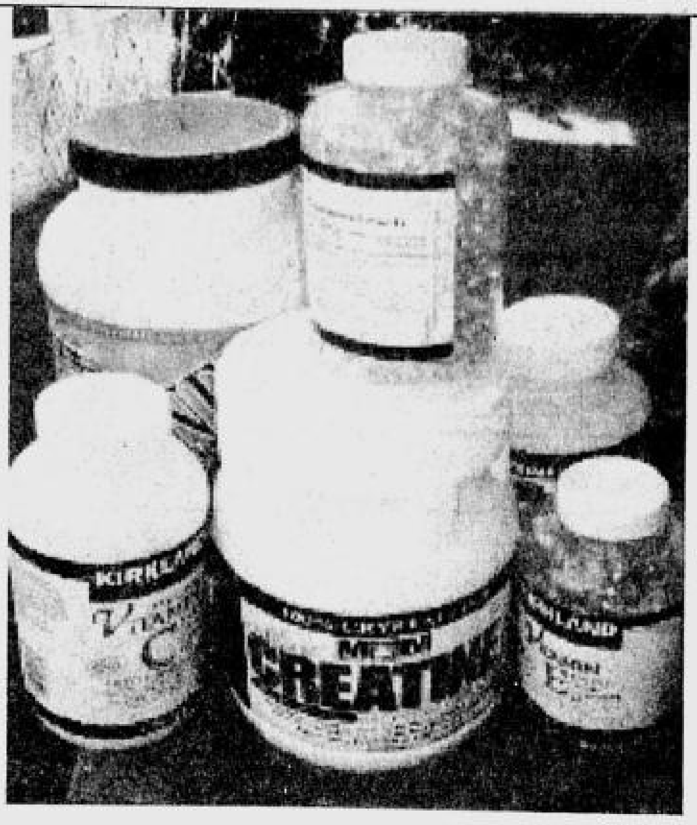
Assistant coach Luisito Artiaga shares that the difference between Baguio and Manila, aside from the climate and the absence of smog, was that the food in Baguio was much better than what was served in Manila. "*Sa* Baguio, *maganda ang pagkain, puro* fresh vegetables *at* fruits, *at* one to *sawa*."

Training in Baguio was, quite literally, a long and winding road. SEA Games double gold medalist Eduardo Buenavista attests to the punishing inclines of Baguio's roads. "*Puro* uphill *ang* workouts *namin doon*," he says. However, the cool climate also helped athletes with their recovery times, enabling them to go on heavy workouts almost every day, a feat which would have been impossible in Manila's humid and polluted conditions. "*Kahit tanghali, nakakatakbo kami*," he says.

The phenomenon of rarefied air— where the amount of oxygen in higher altitudes is considerably less than that at sea level—has made our long distance runners' lungs accustomed to Baguio's thin air, thus enabling them to get more out of the oxygen they breathe at sea level. A comic book analogy would be: our runners, fresh from the Planet Krypton, gained almost superhuman lungs once they got back to earth.

Athletes, coaches and sports associations may say that these secrets to success have been employed before. The real, specific secrets of the RP track and field contingent's success is another story.

E-mail the author at johnaguilar@edsamail.com.ph



Spirit possession and how to avoid it

INNER AWARENESS

Jaime T. Licauco

IF sexual harassment is defined as "unwelcome attention," then possession may be defined as "unwelcome intrusion of interference by a spirit into one's thoughts, will and/or body."

Anyone can be a victim of evil spirits or demonic possession. Even very religious and prayerful persons have been known to be possessed.

Modern western psychology and psychiatry do not consider demonic possession to be a clinical reality. However, more enlightened practitioners and researchers now feel that certain types of psychosis (such as schizophrenia), or any sudden or radical change in behavior, can be signs of spirit possession.

What kinds of spirits do this? Why do they possess the living? What is their purpose?

This is how Brad Steiger, a well-known prolific American psychic researcher and author, explains it:

"Current modalities of the universe maintain that energy can never be destroyed. Therefore, it is reasoned, even though we may discard our bodies at death, the Soul energy that we have created during our lifetime exists even after we have died. At death, this psychic energy force separates itself from the body and begins a new existence on the spirit level.

"A number of parapsychologists has declared that there may be very little difference between the two worlds. The electromagnetic structure of the soul continues to have the same habits, thoughts, memories, feelings and flaws as existing in the physical plane.

"Thus, if a person has spent his entire existence in pursuit of pleasure, the psychic soul personality will experience the same mediumistic drives after death. He will attempt to return to all his old, pleasurable places.

"Think of the tremendous, unresolved shock when someone dies unexpectedly and enters the spirit world. And if there were additional negative factors, such as a feud left unsettled, an old score left unpaid, an argument left unresolved, then that spirit might hunger to return to the physical world and obtain vengeance."

Such a negative and earthbound spirit may seek to attach itself to a susceptible person and make him or her do things unnatural to and against his or her will. Such spirits become parasites.

Signs of spirit possession

Any or a combination of the following behavior pattern is indicative of spirit or demonic possession:

- Hearing voices directing the person to perform acts he may not have considered doing.
- He or she will frequently see or sense the image of the possessing spirit as it existed in its physical life.
- The victim may black-out or faint without knowing what transpired during that time.
- Sometimes, in the midst of a conversation, he may have a mental block and act in a trance-like manner.
- He may be observed talking or walking differently or acting in a strange, irrational manner.
- He may act in a way he has never done before. His friends may see him as a totally different person.
- In a worst scenario, the possession may reach a climax where the person may commit a crime, some violent or anti-social act and even suicide.
- He or she may speak in tongues, and perform lewd acts and avoid religious objects (like a crucifix, rosary, etc.)

According to another researcher, clinical psychologist Edith Fiore, over 50 percent of those confined in mental hospitals in the United States are not insane but victims of spirit possession. I wonder what would be the estimated percentage in Philippine hospitals. Considering our people's greater sensitivity to spirit forces and poor diagnostic procedures, perhaps the percentage of possessed individuals confined in mental hospitals here is greater.

How to avoid spirit possession

- Have a positive, cheerful attitude. Since on the mental and spirit plane "like attracts like," a positive attitude will attract positive and benign spirits to you.
- Maintain harmony and balance in your mind, body and spirit. Keep your emotional side specially in check and not prone to outbursts of anger.
- Avoid being in the company of highly negative people or going to negative places. Negative individuals can sap your energy and drain you, thereby making spirit possession easier. The same in places with negative or earthbound spirits, for example, hospitals, cemeteries, wakes or haunted houses.
- Remember you have free will. You are the master of your own life and destiny. Do not allow another entity to conquer or overpower your will. Remember even God respects our will and will not do anything to go against it. Only evil spirits try to overpower our will. Do not succumb to such attempts. Assert your will over any other entity and command it to "Begone!"
- Carry protective or sacred objects with you. If you are a Christian, you may carry with you some powerful religious objects that you believe in. For example, St. Benedict's medal, which was especially charged or blessed by an authorized Benedictine priest, can help protect you against demonic possession. If you believe in quartz crystals or amulets, have one specially blessed or charged by a competent person to protect you.
- Practice discernment. If an evil spirit is present, you can sense this. Your body will react in a different way compared to the presence of a good spirit. Learn to distinguish them. Discernment is one of the gifts of the Holy Spirit, according to St. Paul.

Address letters to this column to 308 Prince Plaza I, 106 Legaspi St., Greenbelt, Makati City or e-mail jlicauco@geocities.com. Visit www.angelfire.com/journal/licauco. Listen to my dzMM radio program every Sunday, 6-8 p.m.

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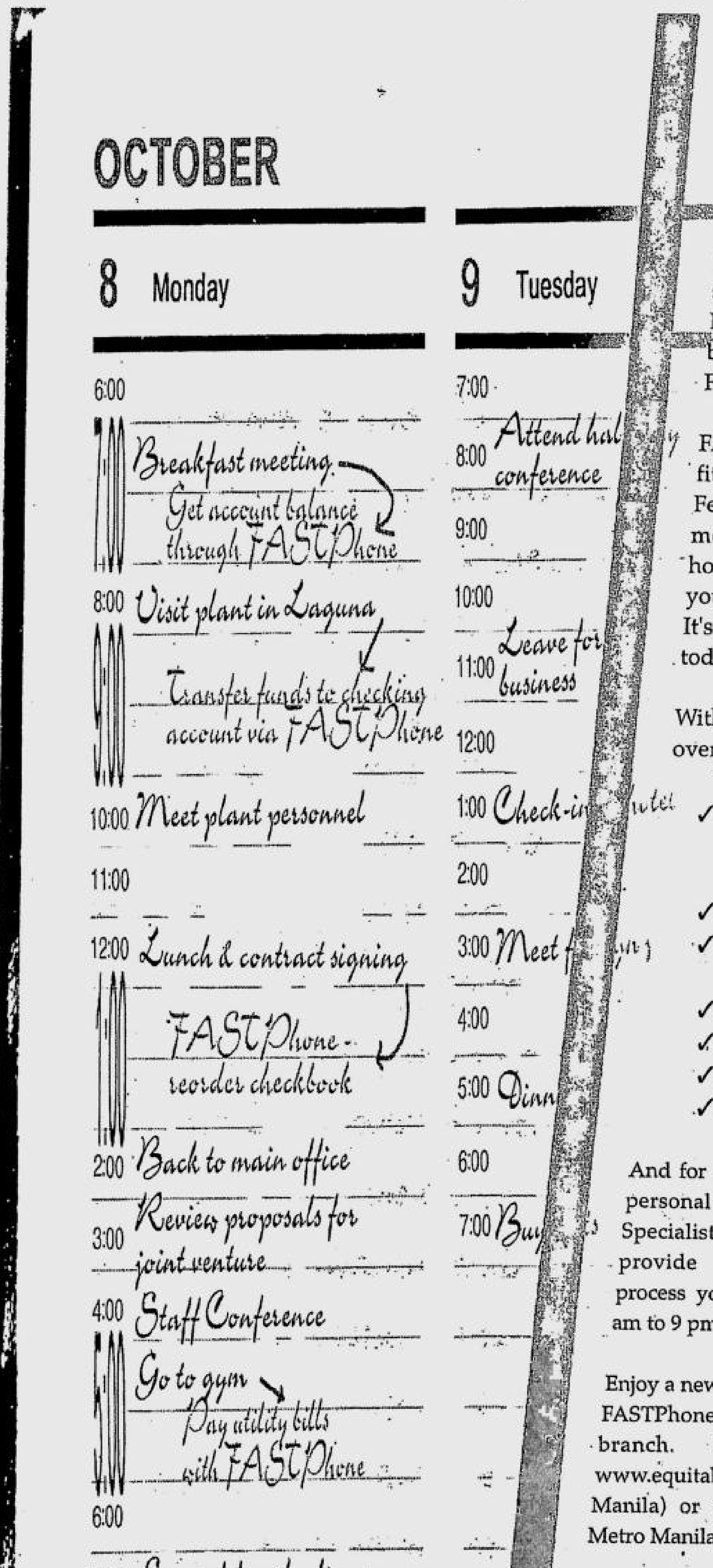
OCTOBER
8 Monday
9 Tuesday
6:00
7:00 Breakfast meeting
Get account balance through FASTPhone
8:00 Visit plant in Laguna
9:00 Transfer funds to checking account via FASTPhone
10:00 Meet plant personnel
11:00
12:00 Lunch & contract signing
1:00 FASTPhone - reorder checkbook
2:00 Back to main office
3:00 Review proposals for joint venture
4:00 Staff Conference
5:00 Go to gym
Pay utility bills with FASTPhone
6:00
7:00 Special family dinner
7:00
8:00 Attend hal
conference
9:00
10:00
11:00 Leave for
business
12:00
1:00 Check-in
2:00
3:00 Meet
4:00
5:00 Dinn
6:00
7:00 Buy

Today's fast paced lifestyle requires a new mode of banking. The old way no longer fits, imposing demands of time and place on our busy schedules. Today's banking service allows you to make the most of your valuable time while doing your daily activities. It's banking suited to an active lifestyle. Experience the ease of modern banking with Equitable PCI BANK FASTPhone!

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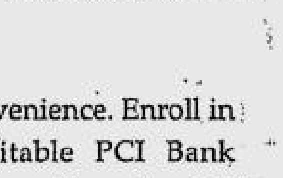
✓ Get information on previous transactions
✓ Request for statement of account
✓ Reorder checkbook
✓ Transfer funds to other accounts
✓ Stop payment of checks



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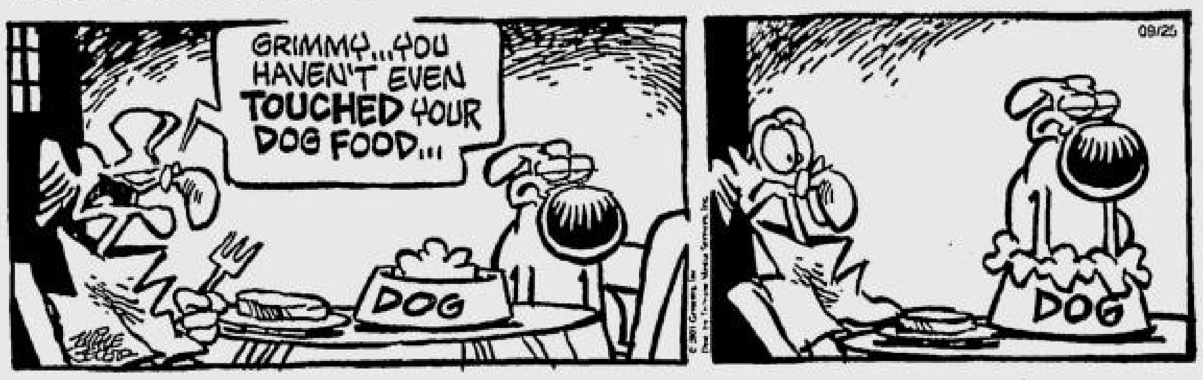
MEDIALINK

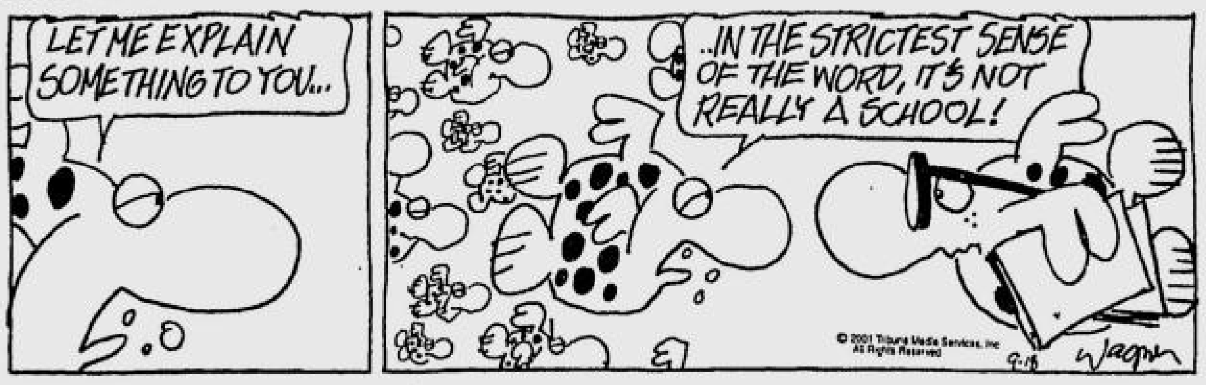
MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

BY MIKE PETERS


GRIMMY...YOU HAVEN'T EVEN TOUCHED YOUR DOG FOOD...
DOG
09/25
DOG

ANIMAL CRACKER

BY FRED WAGNER


LET ME EXPLAIN SOMETHING TO YOU...
..IN THE STRICTEST SENSE OF THE WORD, IT'S NOT REALLY A SCHOOL!
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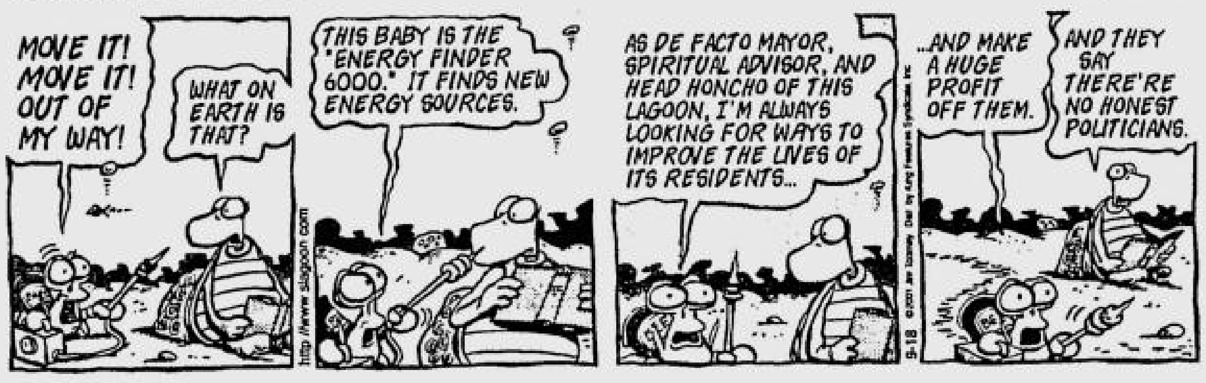
9-18
Wagner

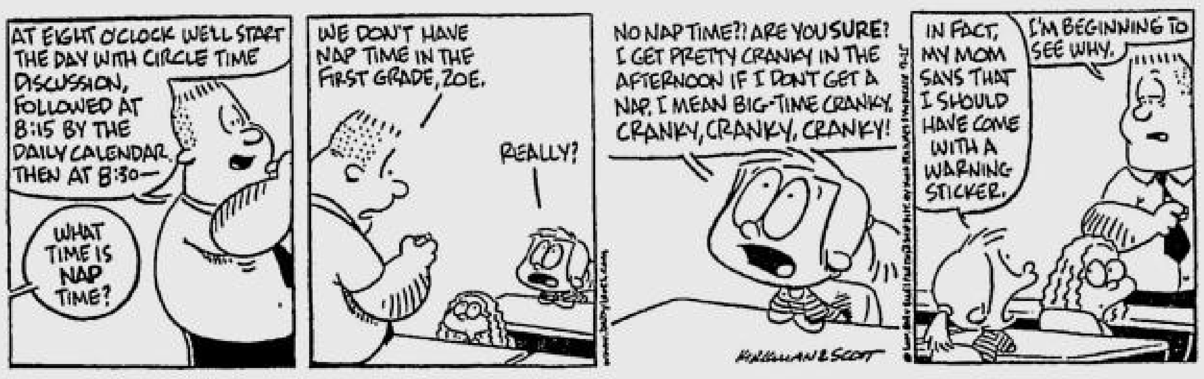
SHERMAN'S LAGOON

BY JIM TOOMEY


MOVE IT! MOVE IT! OUT OF MY WAY!
WHAT ON EARTH IS THAT?
THIS BABY IS THE "ENERGY FINDER 6000." IT FINDS NEW ENERGY SOURCES.
http://www.slagoon.com
AS DE FACTO MAYOR, SPIRITUAL ADVISOR, AND HEAD HONCHO OF THIS LAGOON, I'M ALWAYS LOOKING FOR WAYS TO IMPROVE THE LIVES OF ITS RESIDENTS...
9-18
...AND MAKE A HUGE PROFIT OFF THEM.
AND THEY SAY THERE'RE NO HONEST POLITICIANS.

BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


AT EIGHT O'CLOCK WE'LL START THE DAY WITH CIRCLE TIME DISCUSSION, FOLLOWED AT 8:15 BY THE DAILY CALENDAR. THEN AT 8:30—
WHAT TIME IS NAP TIME?
WE DON'T HAVE NAP TIME IN THE FIRST GRADE, ZOE.
REALLY?
NO NAP TIME?! ARE YOU SURE? I GET PRETTY CRANKY IN THE AFTERNOON IF I DON'T GET A NAP. I MEAN BIG-TIME CRANKY. CRANKY, CRANKY, CRANKY!
IN FACT, MY MOM SAYS THAT I SHOULD HAVE COME WITH A WARNING STICKER.
I'M BEGINNING TO SEE WHY.
KIRKMAN & SCOTT

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Ang Lee, Johnny Carson, Pele, Weird Al Yankovic, Michael Crichton, Doug Flutie

Happy Birthday: You're a loyal and trustworthy friend, but also a vehement enemy. Quick to make decisions, you are even quicker to act upon them. The year ahead will be challenging but satisfying as long as you stick to your plans and don't deviate to accommodate others. Once you are on the right track, it will be hard to sway you.. Your numbers: 9, 12, 17, 29, 31, 35

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Family discussions are likely to get out of hand, so refrain from jumping to conclusions. Some honest, hard work is in your best interests.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Romantic encounters appear promising. Check out travel opportunities to unusual destinations. Take an interest in the accomplishments of younger family members.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Parents or elders will probably put demands on you. Try to be patient and do what you can to help. They are concerned about getting things done before the end of the year.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Much can be learned from books. Too much idle time will lead to nervousness. You can enhance your appearance, but don't let vanity put you over budget.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Don't go back on your word; confusion makes you look bad. Colleagues are counting on you for support. Romantic infatuation with a colleague will lead to frustration.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): You should be concerned about reaching your fullest potential. Participate in functions that will boost your self-esteem.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Changes at home will not go over well with everyone. Be careful not to overdo it and don't spend money you really shouldn't part with.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Although relatives may mean well, their advice won't help your predicament. Try to sort out differences by yourself. Your mate may not tell you the whole truth.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Don't let anyone take advantage of your generosity. Be careful not to neglect any problems that crop up with skin, bones or teeth. Prevention is the wisest course.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You can't make a decision based on the facts you've been given. Delve deeper and be 100-percent sure before acting. Romance will develop through group events.

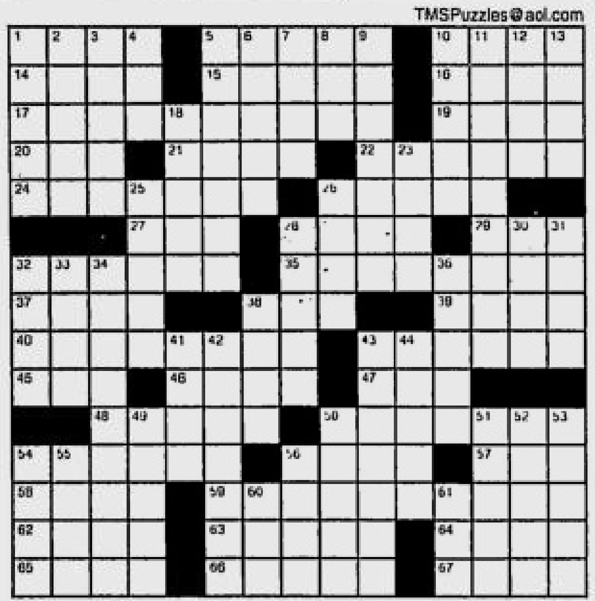
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You can expect to encounter difficulties with officials if your personal papers aren't in order. Ask for help if you're uncertain about procedures.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Your involvement in groups will lead to greater popularity and self-confidence. Don't be afraid to give your opinion. You will attract romantic interest if you are straightforward and caring.

Birthday Baby: You are strong, determined and reluctant to back down. You will stick to your beliefs and values. You are also brave, encouraging and extremely clever.

DAILY CROSSWORD

TMSPuzzles@aol.com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By Robert H. Wolfe
North Woodmere, NY

9/7/01

ACROSS
1 Tragic fate
5 Ancient Yemen
10 Quick swims
14 Being: Lat.
15 Gem weight
16 Component piece
17 Cosmetic lacquer
19 Sicilian peak
20 Eisenhower
21 Meal scraps
22 Shaving foam
24 __ of Queensberry
26 Employ again
27 One: It.
28 Issue a ticket to
29 Nocturnal flyer
32 Positive aspect
35 Use veto power
37 Madeline of "Blazing Saddles"
38 Astronaut Jemison
39 E.T.s' vehicles
40 Financially rewarding
43 Fast fowl
45 __ Anne de Beaupre
46 Big swig
47 Victory
48 Backbone
50 Gizmos
54 Pacific island nation
56 Horse hair
57 Peggy or Brenda
58 Legal document
59 Letter closer
62 __ Domini
63 Announces
64 Relaxation
65 Glimpsed
66 Type of setter
67 "__ of Laura Mars"

DOWN
1 Jeans material
2 Honshu port
3 Wickerwork willow
4 Gibson or Torme
5 Lava cinders
6 Stops
7 Goddess of discord
8 __-relief
9 Sports figure
10 Pieces for two
11 Nude
12 Express longing
13 Tree topper
18 Pulverize
23 Violinist Leopold
25 Aidan or Anthony
26 Cleave
28 Work together
30 Oodles
31 Polanski film
32 Island guitars, briefly
33 Solemn agreement
34 Footwear finish
36 Feeling regret
38 Bannister's distance
41 Death notice, briefly
42 Cartilage cushions
43 Bestial
44 Broaden
49 Climber's device
50 Mural spots
51 Ex-QB of the Broncos
52 Needle
53 Genders
54 "__ brillig..."
55 English composer
56 Niger's neighbor
60 Jug handle
61 __-whizl

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

R	E	A	P	S	■	S	E	S	S	■	S	H	A	M
A	E	R	I	E	■	P	R	O	P	■	C	O	M	E
P	R	E	T	T	Y	U	G	L	Y	■	H	M	O	S
T	O	A	S	T	E	R	S	■	G	R	E	E	K	S
■	■	■	■	I	N	N	■	A	L	A	M	O	■	■
S	A	L	O	N	S	■	B	L	A	M	E	F	U	L
T	W	A	N	G	■	G	L	O	S	S	■	F	D	A
E	A	R	S	■	P	E	O	N	S	■	L	I	D	S
E	K	G	■	E	L	A	T	E	■	L	A	C	E	S
R	E	E	N	T	E	R	S	■	C	I	C	E	R	O
■	■	R	U	N	T	S	■	M	O	P	■	■	■	■
R	A	H	R	A	H	■	L	I	B	R	E	T	T	O
E	R	A	S	■	O	P	E	N	S	E	C	R	E	T
P	I	L	E	■	R	O	T	C	■	A	R	E	N	T
O	A	F	S	■	A	P	S	E	■	D	U	E	T	O

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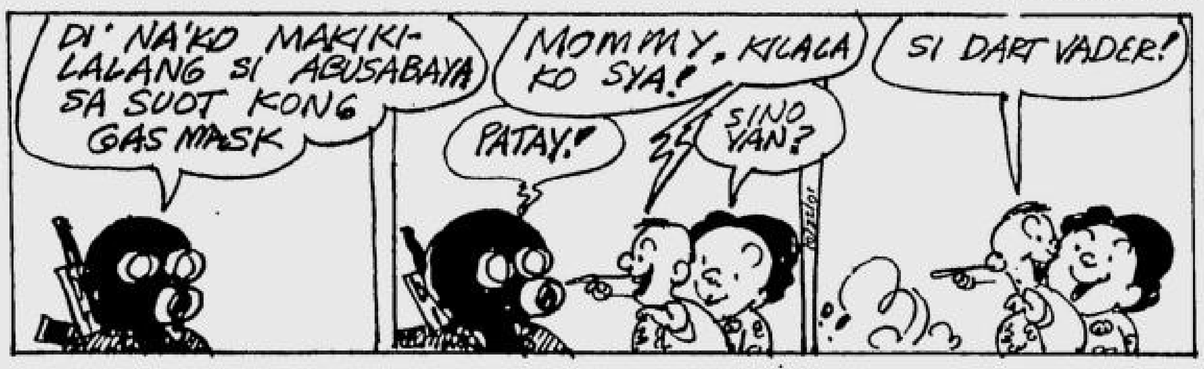
9/7/01

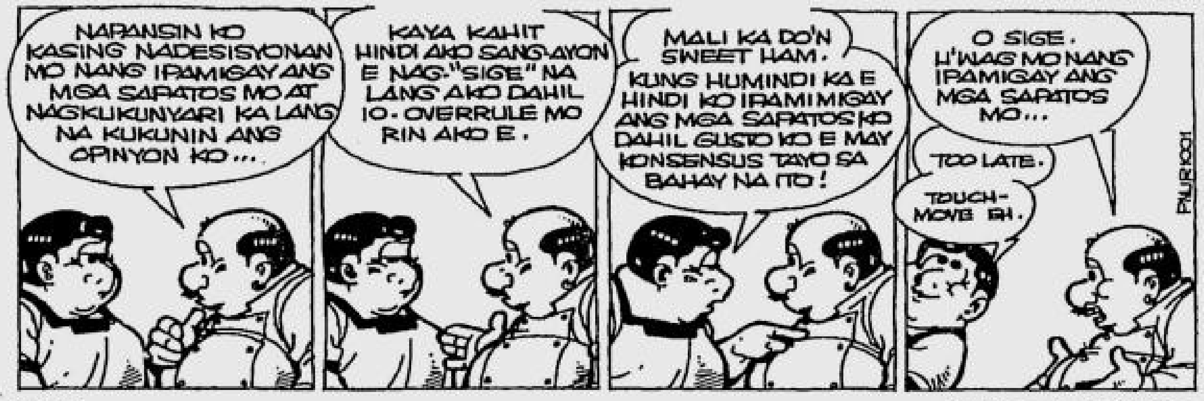
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


DI' NA'KO MAKIKI-LALANG SI ABUSABAYA SA SUOT KONG GAS MASK
MOMMY, KILALA KO SYA!
PATAY!
SINO YAN?
SI DART VADER!

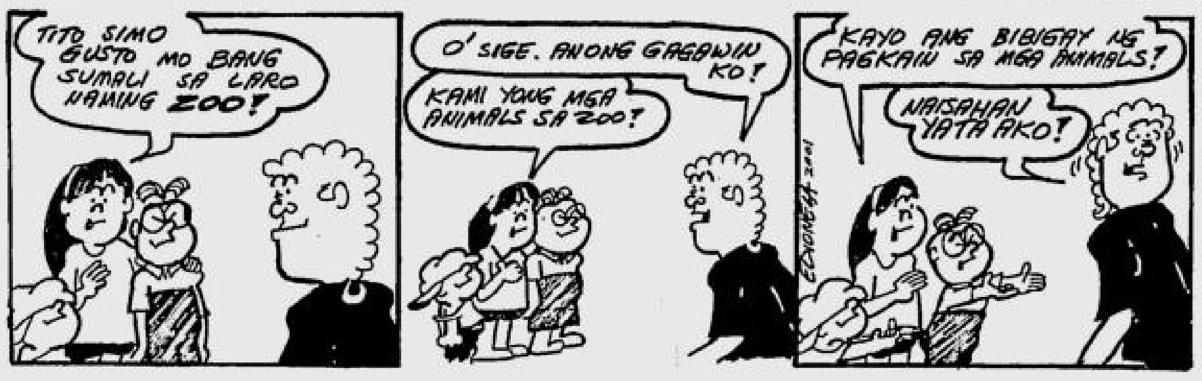
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


NAPANSIN KO KASING NADESISYONAN MO NANG IPAMIGAY ANG MGA SAPATOS MO AT NAGKUKUNYARI KA LANG NA KUKUNIN ANG OPINYON KO...
KAYA KAHIT HINDI AKO SANG-AYON E NAG-"SIGE" NA LANG AKO DAHIL IO-OVERRULE MO RIN AKO E.
MALI KA DO'N SWEET HAM.
KUNG HUMINDI KA E HINDI KO IPAMIMIGAY ANG MGA SAPATOS KO DAHIL GUSTO KO E MAY KONSENSUS TAYO SA BAHAY NA ITO!
O SIGE. H'WAG MO NANG IPAMIGAY ANG MGA SAPATOS MO...
TOO LATE.
TOUCH-MOVE EH.
PMJR1001

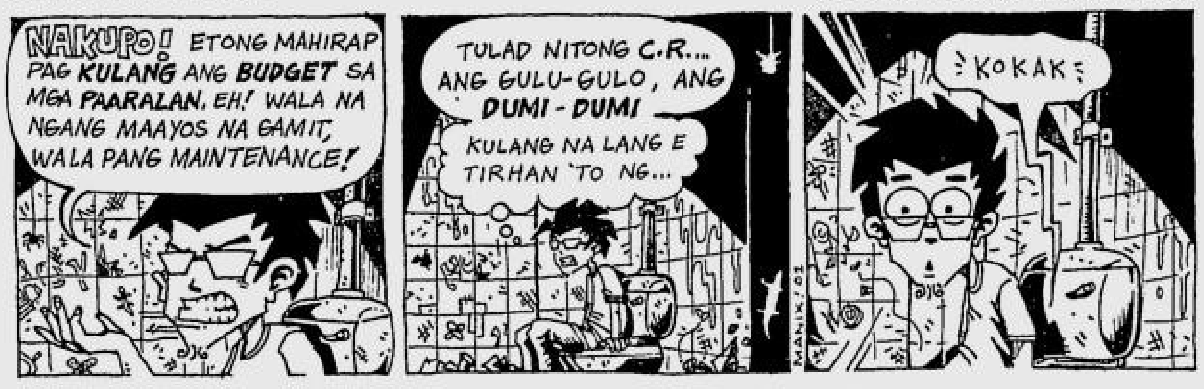
SIMO

BY EDGAR DIONELA


TITO SIMO GUSTO MO BANG SUMALI SA LARO NAMING ZOO!
O' SIGE. ANONG GAGAWIN KO!
KAMI YONG MGA ANIMALS SA ZOO!
KAYO ANG BIBIGAY NG PAGKAIN SA MGA ANIMALS!
NAISAHAN YATA AKO!
DIONELA 2001

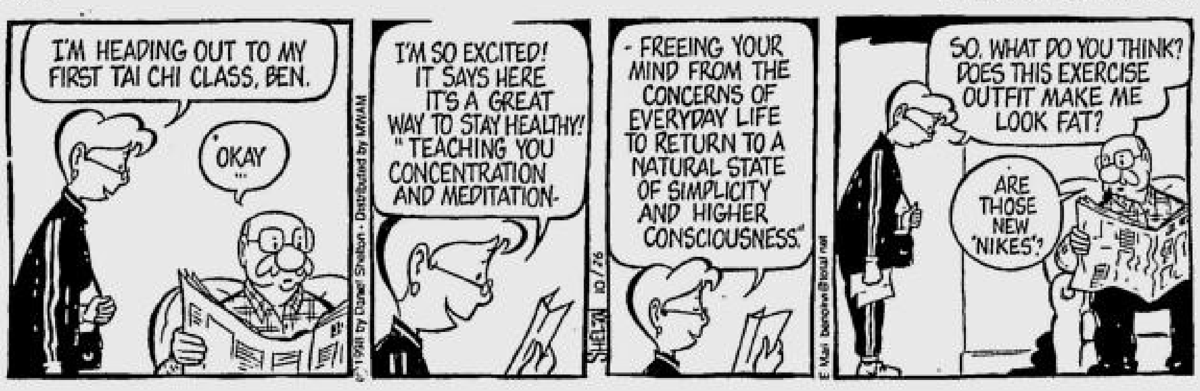
GARAPATA BLOOD

BY JOHN PAUL/BENG/MANIX


NAKUPO! ETONG MAHIRAP PAG KULANG ANG BUDGET SA MGA PAARALAN, EH! WALA NA NGANG MAAYOS NA GAMIT, WALA PANG MAINTENANCE!
TULAD NITONG C.R.... ANG GULU-GULO, ANG DUMI-DUMI
KULANG NA LANG E TIRHAN 'TO NG...
MANIX '02
KOKAK

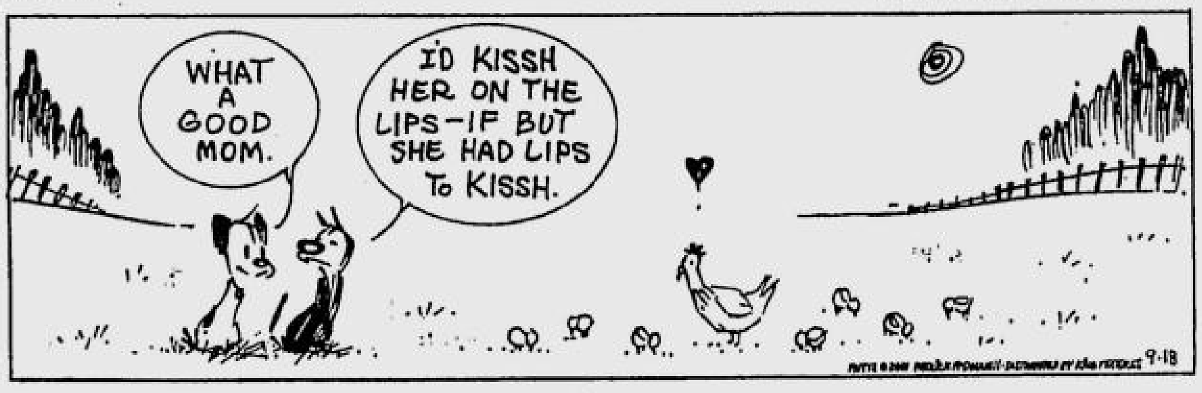
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


I'M HEADING OUT TO MY FIRST TAI CHI CLASS, BEN.
OKAY
I'M SO EXCITED! IT SAYS HERE IT'S A GREAT WAY TO STAY HEALTHY! "TEACHING YOU CONCENTRATION AND MEDITATION-
©1998 by Daniel Shelton - Distributed by MWAM
SHELTON 10/26
- FREEING YOUR MIND FROM THE CONCERNS OF EVERYDAY LIFE TO RETURN TO A NATURAL STATE OF SIMPLICITY AND HIGHER CONSCIOUSNESS."
SO, WHAT DO YOU THINK? DOES THIS EXERCISE OUTFIT MAKE ME LOOK FAT?
ARE THOSE NEW 'NIKES'?

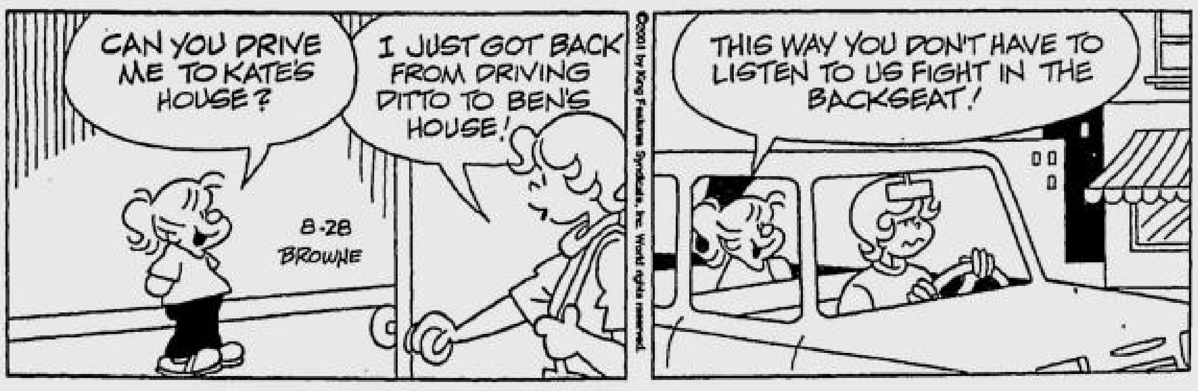
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


WHAT A GOOD MOM.
I'D KISSH HER ON THE LIPS—IF BUT SHE HAD LIPS To KISSH.
9-18

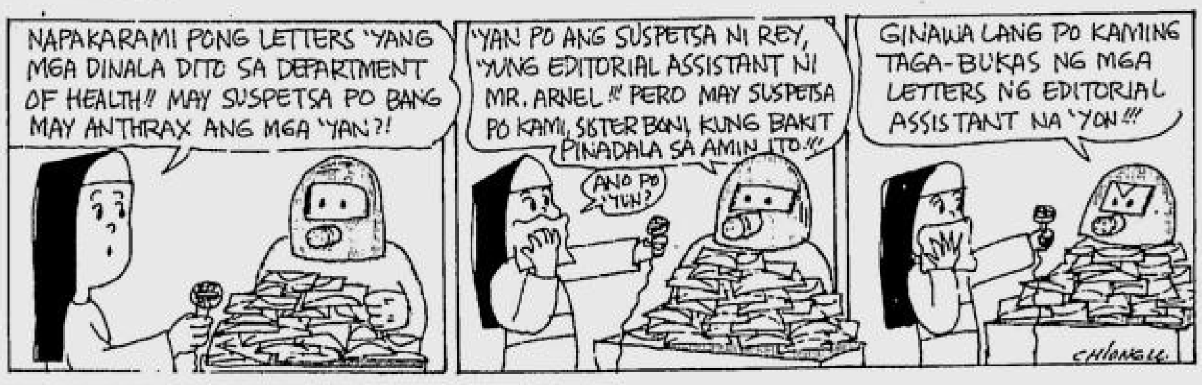
HI AND LOIS

BY BRIAN & GREG WALKER


CAN YOU DRIVE ME TO KATE'S HOUSE?
I JUST GOT BACK FROM DRIVING DITTO TO BEN'S HOUSE!
8-28
BROWNE
©2001 by King Features Syndicate, Inc. World rights reserved.
THIS WAY YOU DON'T HAVE TO LISTEN TO US FIGHT IN THE BACKSEAT!

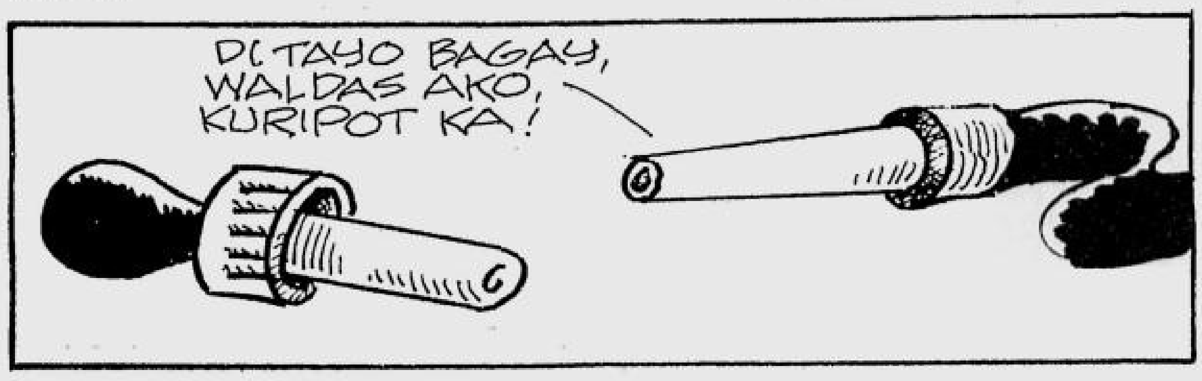
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO

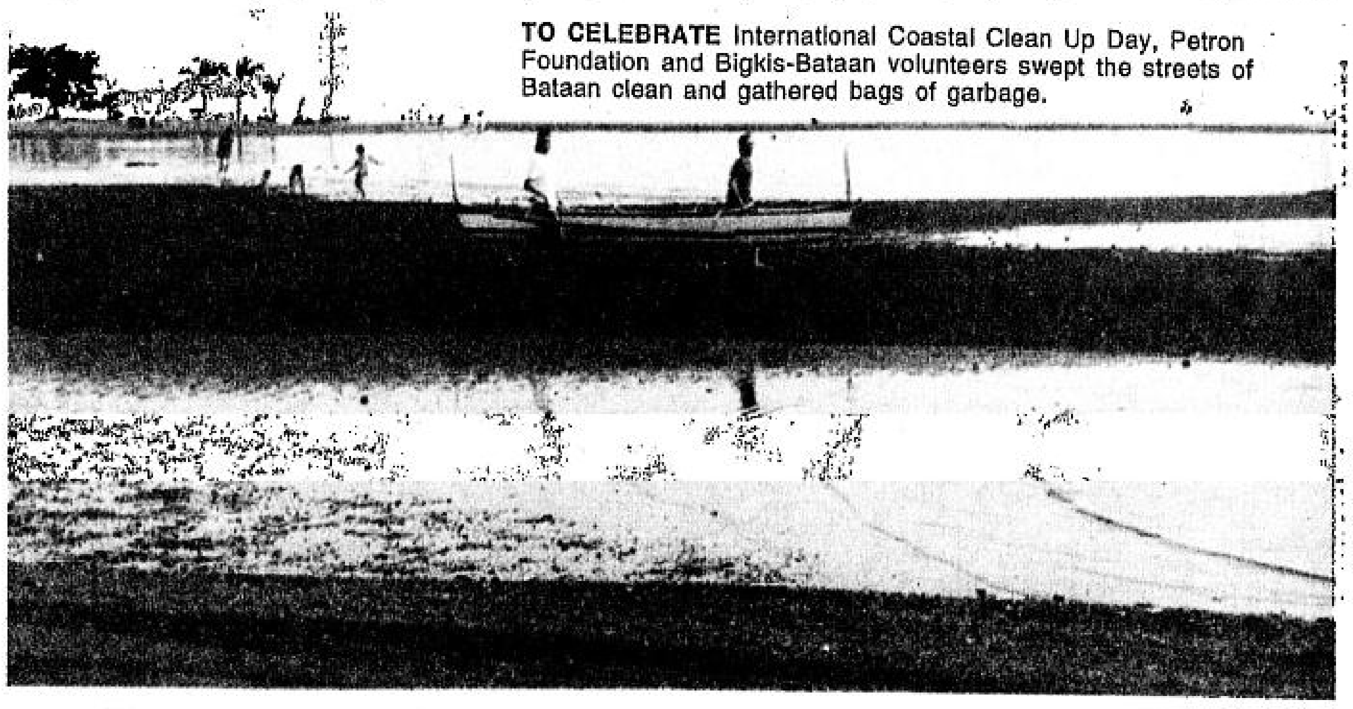

NAPAKARAMI PONG LETTERS 'YANG MGA DINALA DITO SA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH!! MAY SUSPETSA PO BANG MAY ANTHRAX ANG MGA 'YAN?!
'YAN PO ANG SUSPETSA NI REY, 'YUNG EDITORIAL ASSISTANT NI MR. ARNEL!! PERO MAY SUSPETSA PO KAMI, SISTER BONI, KUNG BAKIT PINADALA SA AMIN ITO!!!
ANO PO 'YUN?
GINAWA LANG PO KAMING TAGA-BUKAS NG MGA LETTERS NG EDITORIAL ASSISTANT NA 'YON!!!
CHIONGLO

TULDOK

BY PAPU & TATUM MILAMBILING


DI TAYO BAGAY, WALDAS AKO, KURIPOT KA!

RESIDENTS of the 12 towns of Bataan helped one another in cleaning up the coast of the province last Sept. 22.



TO CELEBRATE International Coastal Clean Up Day, Petron Foundation and Bigkis-Bataan volunteers swept the streets of Bataan clean and gathered bags of garbage.

Why the coast is clear in Bataan

TWELVE towns in Bataan do a regular clean-up every month. But when International Coastal Clean Up Day was celebrated last Sept. 22, they did it together.

Councilor Ben Remorin proudly showed off his front yard, just a few meters away from the sets, which his family tidies up every day, even if the tide washes into it the garbage of Manila Bay and Metro Manila, day after day. Belen, his 68-year-old cousin and neighbor, remembers this very beach in Barangay Kitang in Limay, so clean in pre-war time, when military nurses from Bataan and Corregidor would bring blankets and lie on the beach at night to relax. She never imagined the day would come when she would wake up to see the shoreline so littered as though a storm hits every day.

Limay Vice Mayor Ramon Ambrosio strolled in for a chat with Remorin, then greeted the small army from Petron's refinery in Bataan and the Makati office, led by VP for corporate planning Ziad S. Labban, VP-refinery Alfred Trio, refinery manager Villamor Tila, Petron Foundation executive director Malu Erni and VP-Finance and Human Resources OIC TonTon Pelayo.

The Bataan Coastal Care Foundation Inc. (BCCFI) has a membership of 18 companies, all located in Bataan, including Petron. Known as Bigkis-Bataan, BCCFI is made up of 18 companies, the office of Bataan Gov. Leonardo "Ding" Roman and his constituents, as well as the United Nations Development Program (UNDP).

The Petron group, which has since adopted Barangay Kitang, gives feedback to each other about the growing enthusiasm of other companies that are still not members of the BCCFI. It appears these have started to donate cleaning items, if not yet the manpower.

In Orion, Bataan, Mayor Antonio Raymundo is mud-spattered and resting but his contingent of small boys and teeners are hard at work around the perimeter of their houses on stilts, much like those of the seafaring Badjao tribes of Mindanao. The mayor is determined to establish a final perimeter to contain the heedless and continuing urban sprawl of this depressed community by the sea. The mayor's boys even whisper a cinematic secret: Fernando Poe Jr. used to shoot movies here, dressing up the homes and citizens in Muslim clothing and in a fight scene, Paquito Diaz fell off the narrow crosswalk and they had to hose him down with water afterward. The mayor also had a toilet built with a septic tank. It is the only one in the area.

Ellen Tabing of the Project Management Office of Bigkis-Bataan navigates the towns around Bataan, looking up the other areas given a veritable whitewash. Even the streets have been swept clean, the hedges trimmed, bags of garbage gathered. Despite the unclear skies, the coast is clear in Bataan.

National mid-year climb in Camiguin

"MOUNTAINEERS all over the Philippines will troop to Camiguin Island this week," beams outdoors sportsman Rex Tapungot, president of the host mountaineering club of this year's national mid-year climb. Coinciding with the Lanzones Festival in the island, the 16th Mountaineering Federation of the Philippines Inc. (MFPI) National Mid-Year President's Meeting and Climb will be an exciting traipse through Camiguin's seven volcanoes. To spice things up, an orienteering race will be held on Oct. 27. In this photo, Tapungot and his colleagues in the Northern Mindanao Mountaineering Society (NORMMS) Ecological Foundation Inc., the climb's host, take a breather during a dry run climb in Mt. Timpoong recently. Call Rex at 0919-6030281 or check http://normms-efi.cdo.ph.

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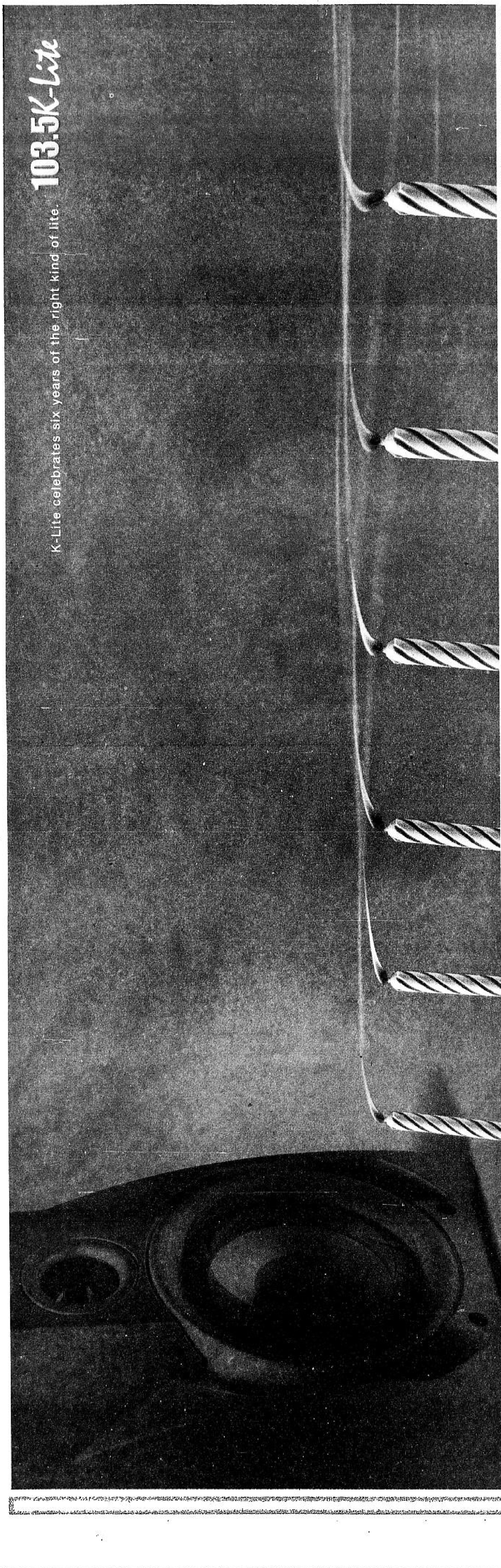

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Nature
bench/ SUYEN Corporation
Tree Planting Activity
saving our precious environment!
September 1, 2001 La Mesa Watershed

THE 110 Bench employees pose together with Ben Chan after the conclusion of the day's planting activity.

Fashion company continues to preserve the environment

TO MARK its 14th year, about 110 Bench employees trooped to the La Mesa watershed in Caloocan City. This year, the country's leading lifestyle store held a tree-planting activity as part of the ABS-CBN Foundation and Ayala Foundation's Adopt a Hectare program which aims to preserve Mother Nature.

Headed by Ben Chan himself, who chairs the Bench board, the staff was given at least five to seven mahogany seedlings to plant in the hectares of land that were "adopted" by the company. The activity gave them a chance to commune with nature and be away from all the stress and pressures of work. It was also a learning experience as people were given the chance to share their own experiences about planting and their views about preserving our forests. Everyone was asked to plant the seedlings with their bare hands and assume the responsibility of making sure these are planted properly to ensure their growth.

The tree-planting activity was one way for Bench to do its share in securing the future for the next generation.

This was not the first time Bench showed concern for the environment. In the past, it launched an ecological campaign that focused on two kinds of endangered species: the tarsier monkey and the monkey-eating eagle. Shirts and stuffed toys made after the likeness of these species were offered at Bench. And for every item sold, a peso went to the Calauit Foundation.

The Bench anniversary signaled a coming-of-age for the popular brand. After 14 years in the apparel and lifestyle industry, Bench has grown up. What started as a small enterprise designed to give the youth/yuppie market an alternative clothing line that is stylish yet affordable, Bench has become a top name in Filipino fashion.

BEN Chan stands beside one of the seedlings he planted at the La Mesa watershed.

bench/ SUYEN Corporation
Tree Planting Activity
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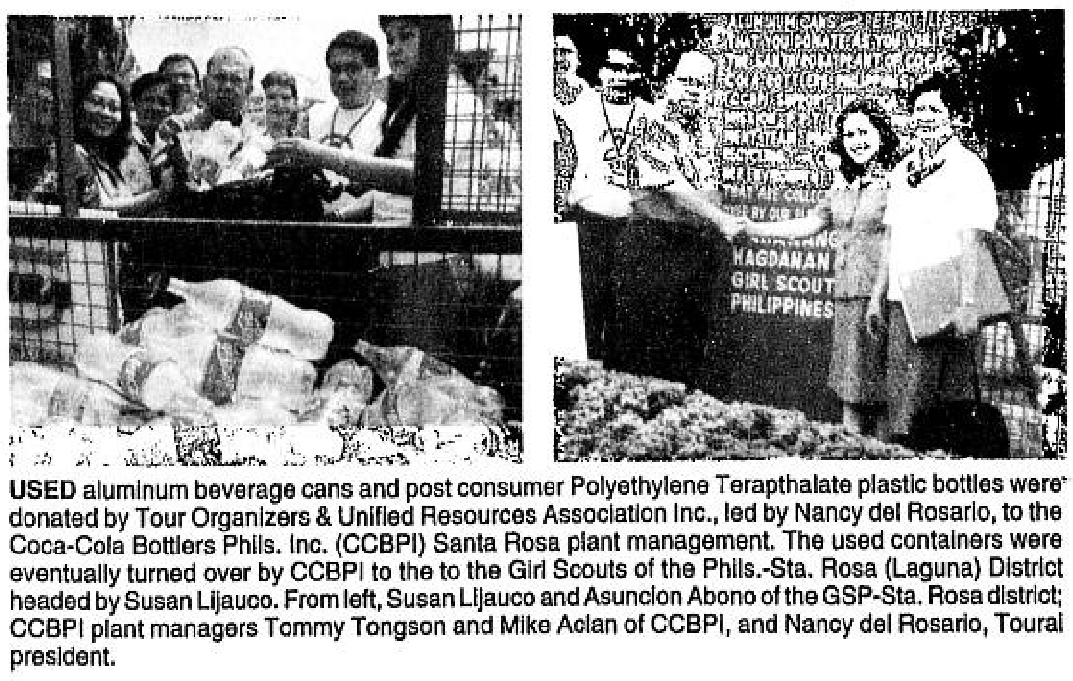
BEN Chan hands over the check to Val Mendoza as payment for the hectares of land adopted by Bench at the La Mesa watershed.

PINOY ECO-ADVENTURERS

Team AXN Phils. competes in the Eco Challenge, the Olympics of adventure racing ongoing in South Island, New Zealand until Nov. 2. The team's captain is Rob Greville (far right), a native of New Zealand who has been a resident of Cebu for 12 years now. The 49-year-old businessman and athlete teams up with Mylene Jarina, Herado Oracion and Jerome Luengo for the 500-km, 12-day race. They are the country's first representatives to the 75-team competition. Eco Challenge is the brainchild of Mark Burnett, an ex-paratrooper of the elite British SAS.



USED aluminum beverage cans and post consumer Polyethylene Terapthalate plastic bottles were donated by Tour Organizers & Unified Resources Association Inc., led by Nancy del Rosario, to the Coca-Cola Bottlers Phils. Inc. (CCBPI) Santa Rosa plant management. The used containers were eventually turned over by CCBPI to the to the Girl Scouts of the Phils.-Sta. Rosa (Laguna) District headed by Susan Lijauco. From left, Susan Lijauco and Asuncion Abono of the GSP-Sta. Rosa district; CCBPI plant managers Tommy Tongson and Mike Aclan of CCBPI, and Nancy del Rosario, Toural president.